FOREIGN
BROADCAST
INFORMATION
SERVICE

Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-95-101
Thursday
25 May 1995

Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-95-101 CONTENTS *25 May 1995*

NOTICE: An * indicates material that may not be disseminated in electronic form.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Inter-Arab Affairs

League Chief Hails Resumption of Syrian-Israeli Talks *[MENA]* 1
League Chief Says Summit Suspended, Not Canceled *[MENA]* 1
U.S. Role in Israel's Decision To Suspend Seizure Viewed *[MENA]* 1

Islamic Affairs

Political Islam Review: AL-SHA'B 9 May 1
Relief Organization Reports Workers Missing *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 23 May]* 3

Palestinian Affairs

PA Official Interviewed on Jerusalem, Peace *[Cairo Radio]* 4
Hamas Figure Urges 'Temporary Truce' With Israel *[London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI 24 May]* 5
Gaza Hamas Leader Says Attacks To Continue *[Jerusalem Radio]* 6
Hamas' al-Zahhar Urges Pressure on Jerusalem Issue *[Jerusalem Radio]* 6
'Palestinian Grouping' Factions Meet in Damascus *[London AL-HAYAH 24 May]* 6
Al-Shaqaqi on Meeting with 'Grouping' Leader *[Tehran International]* 7
Islamic Jihad Reportedly Appoints New Media Spokesman *[AL-SABIL 23-29 May]* 7
Statement Attributed to Islamic Jihad Assails Leaders *[AL-SAFIR 18 May]* 7
Hamas, Rejectionist Front Win Bi'r Zayt Elections *[Jerusalem TV]* 8
    Muslims Win More College Elections *[Jerusalem Radio]* 8
U.S. Report on 'Arafat Succession Cited *[Paris AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI 19 May]* 8

Arab-Israeli Talks

PLO, Israel Said To Conclude Agreement on Jerusalem *[Paris AL-MUHARRIR 22 May]* 10

ARAB AFRICA

Algeria

Car Bomb Attack Against Algiers Hotel Foiled 11
    'Tragic Consequences' Averted *[Paris International]* 11
    Papers Report Several Bombs Found *[AFP]* 11
Further on 21 May Council of Ministers Meeting *[Algiers Radio]* 11

Egypt

Foreign Ministry Welcomes Syrian-Israeli 'Progress' *[MENA]* 12
PLO Chairman 'Arafat Arrives on Visit 12
    Reviews Developments With Musa *[MENA]* 12
    Holds Private Meeting With Mubarak *[MENA]* 12
    Musa Details Mubarak-'Arafat Talks *[MENA]* 12
Continued 'All-Out' Pressure on Israel Urged *[MENA]* 13
Commentary Analyzes Israeli Expropriation Freeze *[Cairo Radio]* 13
Report on Finance Minister's Resignation 'Baseless' *[MENA]* 14

Interior Minister Describes Security Situation 14
  Says Country Stable *[MENA]* 14
  On Extraditing 'Terrorist Criminals' *[MENA]* 15
Muslim Brotherhood Leader Interviewed *[London AL-HAYAH 7 May]* 16

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Receives UN Reply on Rwanda, Burundi *[JANA]* 18
  'Great Appreciation' From Hutu Tribe *[Tripoli Radio]* 19

Morocco

King Meets Pakistan's Foreign Minister at OIC *[Islamabad Radio]* 19
Government Hampered by Ongoing Drought *[Paris JEUNE AFRIQUE 27 Apr]* 19

Sudan

Government Responds to Opposition 'Threats' *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 24 May]* 20
Rebel Spokesman Accuses Government of Violations *[London International]* 20

ARABIAN PENINSULA

Kuwait

Cabinet Officially Withdraws Constitution Request *[KUNA]* 22
  National Assembly 'Crisis' Over *[KUNA]* 22
Tehran: Kuwait Opposes U.S. Embargo on Iran *[IRNA]* 22
UK Banks Refuse To Reschedule Loan Repayments *[London THE EUROPEAN 1 Jun]* 22

Oman

Naval Exercise Begins in Territorial Waters *[WAKH]* 23

Saudi Arabia

Industry Minister Lauds 'Huge' Accomplishments *[SPA]* 23

IRAQ

Opposition: Minister's Firing Due to Regime Factions *[Voice of Iraqi Islamic Revolution]* 25
  Dismissal Said To Strengthen Qusayy Camp *[London AL-HAYAH 24 May]* 25
  Events Boost Sons' Influence *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 24 May]* 26
Israeli 'Spy' Satellite Launch Called 'New Threat' *[INA]* 26
Paper Praises MIO-Designed Machines in Factories *[AL-THAWRAH 14 May]* 27
Markets, Rising Price of Dollar Discussed *[AL-JUMHURIYAH 15 Mar]* 27

ISRAEL

Syria Reportedly Drops Demand for Geographic Parity *[Jerusalem Radio]* 31
  Rabin on Resumption of Talks *[Jerusalem Radio]* 31
Rabin: IDF Redeployment To Be Executed in 2 Stages *[Jerusalem Radio]* 32
Peres Denies Peace Process 'Fragile' *[Paris Radio]* 32
Sarid on Palestinian State, Moves With Syria *[Jerusalem Radio]* 33
Ministry Approves Building Project in Jerusalem *[THE JERUSALEM POST 24 May]* 34

Russia's Posuvalyuk Arrives, Meets With Officials 34
  On Iran's Military Nuclear Program *[Jerusalem Radio]* 34
  Says Russia Seeking To Host Arms Talks *[Jerusalem Radio]* 34
  Discusses Peace Process With Peres *[HA'ARETZ 25 May]* 34
Commentary Attacks Indyk Speech, Dual Containment *[YEDI'OT AHARONOT 24 May]* 35
Turkmen President Comments on Neutrality, Iran *[Jerusalem Radio]* 36
  Meets Rabin, Signs Agreements *[Jerusalem Radio]* 36
Likud Denies ADP Reports on Netanyahu Offers *[Jerusalem Radio]* 36
Likud Rejects Claims of Interference in Peace Talks *[Jerusalem Radio]* 37

JORDAN

King, 'Arafat Address Business Forum in Amman 38
  King Urges 'Sacrifices' for Peace *[Amman Radio]* 38
  'Arafat Stresses Improving Economy *[Amman Radio]* 39
Prime Minister, 'Arafat Review Ties, Peace Process *[Amman TV]* 40
Paper Urges Continued Efforts To Protect Jerusalem *[AL-RA'Y 24 May]* 42

LEBANON

Hizballah To Decide Position on Cabinet Role *[Voice of the Oppressed]* 43
Columnist Criticizes U.S. Ambassador to UN *[AL-NAHAR 19 May]* 43
Commentary Lashes Out at Arabs for Suspending Summit *[Voice of the Oppressed]* 43

SYRIA

Radio Reports Security 'Understanding' With Israel *[Damascus Radio]* 45
Daily Ridicules Rabin 'Blackmail' Over Land *[Damascus Radio]* 45
Commentary Doubts Israeli Peace Intentions *[Damascus Radio]* 45
PLO's Qaddumi Praises Country's Stances, Departs *[SANA]* 46

SOUTH ASIA

Bangladesh

Official, Press View of U.S. Resolution Veto 47
  Official Calls Move 'Regrettable' *[THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER 22 May]* 47
  Editorial: 'Landed Like a Bomb' *[THE MORNING SUN 20 May]* 47

India

'Paucity of Funds' Said Delaying Nuclear Projects *[Delhi Radio]* 47
Self-Sufficiency Claimed in Nuclear Technology *[THE ASIAN AGE 25 May]* 48
Islamic Party Blamed for Attack on Official *[Delhi Radio]* 48
UK Envoy Briefed on Pakistan's Kashmir 'Game Plan' *[Delhi Radio]* 48
Forces Claim Pakistan Advising Kashmir Militants *[INDIAN EXPRESS 25 May]* 49
*Annual Defense Ministry Report Reviewed *[THE STATESMAN 5 Apr]* 49
*Border Trade With Burma Inaugurated 13 Apr *[THE STATESMAN 14 Apr]* 50

Iran

Daily: Christopher Responsible for U.S. 'Defeats' *[Tehran Radio]* 51
Khamene'i: Superpowers Promote 'Tyranny, Unbelief' *[IRNA]* 51
Official Cites 'Positive' Outcome of Iraq Talks *[Tehran Radio]* 51
Iraq Urged Against Being 'International Pariah' *[IRNA]* 52
Official Comments on Turkish Allegations, Ties *[IRNA]* 52
  'Source' Denies Claims *[IRNA]* 52

Relations With Asian Countries Viewed 53
    Borujerdi: 'Serious' About Ties *[IRNA]* 53
    Radio Views Ties With Thailand *[Tehran Radio]* 53
DPRK Group Assails 'U.S. Intrigues' *[Tehran TV]* 53
British 'Divide and Rule' Foreign Policy Viewed *[Tehran International]* 54
Funding of Reconstruction in Khorramshahr Viewed *[Tehran TV]* 54
IRIB Program Discusses Khorramshahr Anniversary *[Tehran TV]* 54
Military Maneuvers Conclude in Khorramshahr *[Tehran Radio]* 55
Deputies Must Watch Government Company Budgets *[RESALAT 22 Feb]* 55
Export of Detergents, Other Products Detailed *[RESALAT 15 Apr]* 56
Unemployment Drops From 15.9 to 11.4 Percent *[RESALAT 15 Apr]* 57

Pakistan

Reaction to U.S. Moves on Pressler Ammendment 57
    Spokesman Welcomes Development *[Islamabad Radio]* 57
    Radio Hails 'Positive Development' *[Islamabad Radio]* 57
    Daily Views 'Partial Vindication' *[THE NATION 25 Mar]* 58
Defense Status, Indian 'Aggressive Aims' Viewed *[THE NATION HEADLINE NEWS SERVICE]* 59
Kashmir Leader Complains of Indian 'Threats' *[Islamabad TV]* 60

Inter-Arab Affairs

League Chief Hails Resumption of Syrian-Israeli Talks

NC2505054695 Cairo MENA in Arabic
2135 GMT 24 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 24 May (MENA)—Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid has welcomed the resumption of Syrian-Israeli negotiations as stated in an announcement by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher tonight, when he said an agreement was reached this evening to resume the Israeli-Syrian negotiations in June.

In statements to MENA this evening, Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said the Arab nation, welcoming the peace process in Resolution 5092 of September 1991, stressed that peace is a strategic option. The Arab League secretary general said peace must be based on the implementation of UN Security Council Resolutions 242, 338, 252, and 425 as well as on the land-for-peace principle.

In his statements Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said the Arab nation's emphasis on the need for Israel to withdraw from all the occupied Arab territories, including the occupied Syrian Golan Heights and south Lebanon, and to enable the Palestinian National Authority to set up its independent state on all its national soil with Jerusalem as its capital would pave the way toward establishing the pillars of security, stability, development, and mutual cooperation based on clear-cut principles and sound criteria.

League Chief Says Summit Suspended, Not Canceled

NC2405151395 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1450 GMT 24 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 24 May (MENA)—Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid has stated that the Arabs will not relinquish their rights and will not accept occupation, colonization, or the loss of Jerusalem.

In a statement to be published in the 26 May issue of AL-MUSAWWAR, 'Abd-al-Majid said the Arab summit has been suspended and not canceled. He said we expect the Israeli decision to suspend the confiscation of land in East Jerusalem to be a step toward the full cancellation of the confiscation orders.

'Abd-al-Majid said the announcement on the holding of the Arab summit was a message in which we told everyone that: "We are not raising our voices with emotion that will soon calm down but we are serious about defending our rights." He said peace is "our strategic option" but Israel's practices on Palestinian land make us doubt whether this is its option, too. He added that the entire peace process is threatened with collapse because of the Jerusalem issue. In addition to being Arab territory, Jerusalem has a special status for the Arab and Islamic worlds.

U.S. Role in Israel's Decision To Suspend Seizure Viewed

NC2405075595 Cairo MENA in Arabic
0720 GMT 24 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 24 May (MENA)—Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid has emphasized that the recent Arab moves regarding Jerusalem had a positive impact and forced Israel to back down on its decision to confiscate Palestinian land in East Jerusalem.

In remarks to the newspaper AL-'ALAM AL-YAWM published today, Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid noted that it was natural to suspend the Arab minisummit after Israel had decided to suspend the confiscation decision.

In another development, the paper quotes well-informed political sources in Cairo as saying that the United States played a role in making Israel back down on its decision to seize the Palestinian land. The United States feared that the Arab minisummit could make accusations against Washington for using the veto to block a Security Council resolution denouncing Israel for seizing Arab territory, the paper adds.

The paper quotes David Sultan, Israeli ambassador in Cairo, as saying that Israel's decision to back down on the confiscation of the Jerusalem land has taken into consideration the sensitivity of the matter for the Arabs, the Palestinians, and even the Israelis. Sultan added that the Israeli Government decided that it was better to suspend the confiscation decision since it involved a major issue that would be better to leave for negotiations with the Palestinian side as part of the Jerusalem problem. The Israeli ambassador hoped that the peace efforts would continue toward reaching a peace that serves the interests of all parties.

Islamic Affairs

Political Islam Review: AL-SHA'B 9 May

NC1805100895

[FBIS Editorial Report] The following is a comprehensive review of all items in the 9 May edition of the Arabic-language newspaper AL-SHA'B that pertain to political Islamic issues.

CONTENTS:

1. Writer Sees Glimpse of Hope in Islam's Future

2. Regime's Failure To Read Opposition Views Criticized
3. U.S.-Israeli Anti-Islam Alliance Planned
4. Labor Party Leader's 'Open Letter to Clinton'
5. Sudanese Prosecutor Interviewed on 'Terrorism,' Crime Conference
6. Writer Urges Reconciliation With Extremists
7. Embargo on Iran, Jewish Lobby's Influence Viewed

WRITER SEES GLIMPSE OF HOPE IN ISLAM'S FUTURE

In a 2,000-word article on page 5, Mustafa Mashhur reviews the state of Muslims and advises them to try to diagnose the ailments to find the right cure.

Addressing "the arrogant on earth," he swears that "your power will fade" and that the Almighty will "punish you for each injustice you commit." He says he addresses these words to "the terrorist Zionist usurpers of Palestine, Jerusalem, and al-Aqsa, as well as America, which submitted to them and helped them cause all these tragedies." He also addresses these words to "the criminal Serbs and the defeated Russians for what they are doing to Chechnya."

Addressing "the rulers of our Islamic states," Mashhur calls on them to "respect the will of the people, lift injustice, release freedom, call off emergency laws, do justice to the people, and guarantee the real representation of the people's forces through clean elections." He also calls on them to overcome differences among Islamic states, unite ranks, and help the nation out of its predicament.

Mashhur sees "a glimpse of hope" and an Islamic awakening he hopes will produce results. He asserts that "the steadfastness of the Islamic Resistance in Palestine and the Muslims in Bosnia, Chechnya, and Kashmir give us hope for a bright future for Islam."

REGIME'S FAILURE TO READ OPPOSITION VIEWS CRITICIZED

In his 500-word column "The Natives" on page 12, Muhammad 'Abd-al-Quddus writes about "the mentality of a totalitarian regime." Quoting Mubarak's remark that "he does not read opposition papers so as not to waste his time," 'Abd-al-Quddus asks: "How can the president learn about the various viewpoints and criticism directed at his ruling system?"

The writer fears that the president might draw his conclusions about opposition views "from his regime's machinery," and thus "only hear and see through them."

'Abd-al-Quddus maintains that the president's knowledge of the views of the opposition "could have saved the regime from making fatal mistakes or changed its outlook on the various Islamic currents, making it stand up only to those that pursue terrorist methods instead of putting them all in the same basket."

In a final note 'Abd-al-Quddus states: "A totalitarian regime in the age of freedom leads to ruination."

U.S.-ISRAELI ANTI-ISLAM ALLIANCE PLANNED

A 200-word report by Mahmud Bakri on page 1 says Israel is planning an anti-Islam alliance with the approval of the United States.

LABOR PARTY LEADER'S OPEN LETTER TO CLINTON

Labor Party Leader Ibrahim Shukri writes a 1,000-word "Open Letter to Clinton" on the U.S. embargo against Iran. He says nuclear programs will not be exclusive to Israel

SUDANESE PROSECUTOR INTERVIEWED ON 'TERRORISM,' CRIME CONFERENCE

A 1,000-word interview with Sudan's Prosecutor General Dr. 'Abd-al-Rahman Ibrahim al-Khalifah by Mu'tazz al-Hadidi is carried on page 7. In it al-Khalifah denies the charge of harboring terrorists and discusses the crime prevention conference.

WRITER URGES RECONCILIATION WITH EXTREMISTS

Mahmud 'Abd-al-Wahhab Fayid, deputy director of the canonical law associations, in a 2,000-word article on page 8, cites press reports to show how the world's Jewish population is growing, how Israel has become the sixth nuclear power, and how it is advancing in many fields while we cannot produce the food we need.

"With a population of just over 4 million, Israel produces enough food and weapons to meet local demand and export the surplus. It is now so strong that it possesses nuclear warheads and missiles of different ranges," Fayid says, noting that Egypt imports "three quarters" of its food and most of its weapons and that foreign debts "choke us."

Fayid cites yet another press report about "extremist Jews" who burned "improper posters," fearing that they might spoil their youth. He notes that the Israeli officials "rushed" to meet these extremists to discuss the issue with them openly to avert further escalation. In contrast, he notes that extremism in Egypt was treated with "a stick to the ass, lashing, electrocution, and hanging like slaughtered animals." He believes officials could have done as the Israelis and treated the issue with patience and kindness to avoid "arousing young people's antipathy toward the authority or forcing them to pursue illegal ways."

Stating that Israel rose, became stronger, and now threatens the region, he stresses the need to "build a clean regime and open the door to whoever sees in himself the ability to serve the country on every forum without nepotism or disposing of anyone to preserve the homeland's interest." He does not agree with writers who are "prejudiced against the Muslim Brothers because they seek to rule" and finds no harm in that quest, since "all parties seek to rule and since democracy in Israel and the West makes room for religious parties" without coercion or rigging.

He calls for clean elections supervised by "a neutral ministry" and calls on the people to exercise their right to vote freely.

He finally says: "We reconciled with Israel and received it and still receive it warmly after it killed 100,000 men whose pure blood watered our precious soil. Is it hard for us to reconcile with each other, reach an understanding, and cooperate for the wellbeing and good of the homeland?"

EMBARGO ON IRAN, JEWISH LOBBY'S INFLUENCE VIEWED

Majdi Ahmad Husayn's 4,000-word article on page 2 discusses the U.S. embargo on Iran and the Jewish lobby's efforts to incite the United States against Islam.

He remarks that the "U.S. President gave nobody the chance to distinguish his recent position on Iran from Israel's." He notes that the announcement was made at a major Jewish meeting attended by Shim'on Peres and that Clinton insisted on putting on the Jewish Yarmulke. He says the "Zionist lobby forces its views on decisionmaking centers in the United States" and that "it involves the United States in unnecessary battles and creates enemies for it everywhere."

Husayn says the "United States is preparing for an all-out war against Iran. If this is not the intent of the economic embargo on Iran, the embargo decision will be naive and ridiculous."

Husayn refers to the growing U.S. "arms stockpiling" in the Gulf region and statements by U.S. officials about their desire "to form a fifth fleet in the Gulf." He says these two things reflect a "desire to intimidate" and at the same time "make the necessary logistic preparations."

He says he believes the U.S. leadership is contemplating "military alternatives," including Israel's repeated expression of its desire to conduct "air raids against Iran's nuclear sites." He adds that the propaganda campaign launched in parallel with the embargo decision "might provide a suitable umbrella for such an Israeli air attack." He says he believes this "does not preclude a direct U.S. military strike" against Iran, for which the "excuses are ample."

Husayn continues: "Without this military direction, Clinton's decision would be nonsense, because the embargo is useless without world consensus or near consensus by the major states at least."

"If this situation continues—and that is expected—the only result of the embargo decision will be losses for U.S. companies and workers," he says.

The writer believes the United States wasted a "golden opportunity" to improve its relations with the Arab region after its withdrawal from Somalia. He explains that the collapse of the Soviet Union provided it with the chance to be "more reasonable" with the Arab-Islamic region. "But Israel and the Jewish lobby did not give the United States the chance to catch its breath and pursue a rational policy," he says, adding: "Genuine citizens and all regional people, now, more than ever, will have no choice, but to be hostile to the bone to the U.S. policy. The Jewish lobby is pushing the U.S. Administration, just like it pushed all previous ones, to the point of maximum hostility." The writer quotes U.S. officials to illustrate the last point and show how officials submit to the Jewish lobby in spite of themselves.

Husayn moves on to the issue of extremist religious groups in the United States who are hostile to the federal government because of its submission to the Zionist domination. He says: "This hostility to the Jews counteracts the tyranny that went beyond the limits in U.S. society."

He returns to the original issue to affirm that "one of the Jewish lobby's sins is that "it boosts the U.S. Government's antipathy toward the Islamic world and U.S. society's antipathy toward Islam."

Relief Organization Reports Workers Missing

95P50122A London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 23 May 95 p 1

[Report by Nafi'a Ghadhab in Sarajevo]

[FBIS Translated Text] An official source at Al-Haramayn Charitable Organization in Sarajevo has confirmed the disappearance of two of its regional workers somewhere along the road between the city of Zenica in central Bosnia and the Croatian city Zaghreb. The source said that a Syrian resident of Bosnia, Muhammad Abu-al-Sayr Qutani, and an Algerian, Muhammad Zaytunah, both of whom work with

Al-Haramayn Charitable Organization, had departed Zenica last Thursday morning on their way to Zaghreb by way of Split and have not been seen since. Qutani, age 29, and Zaytunah, age 20, were driving two jeeps when they disappeared. It is believed that they have been abducted.

Al-Haramayn reported the disappearance of Qutani and Zaytunah to the Croatian authorities in Bosnia as well as to the Bosnian federal police; however, no information has been received yet concerning their whereabouts. Al-Haramayn is active in a number of countries, including Bosnia, Herzegovina, Somalia and Burma.

Palestinian Affairs

PA Official Interviewed on Jerusalem, Peace

NC2405202095 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 24 May 95

[Interview with Furayh Abu-Middayn, minister of justice in the Palestinian Authority, in Gaza, by unidentified correspondent, in Cairo; date not given; from the "Talking Newsreel" program—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Correspondent] Minister, AFP reported today that Israel has lost the first round in the battle for Jerusalem. This means that there are other rounds, at least one other round. In your opinion, what will the characteristics of the next round be?

[Abu-Middayn] Actually, what has happened only reveals the real situation in Jerusalem. I wish to take advantage of this opportunity to tell the Arab and Islamic world that the Jerusalem issue has been exploded by Israel so that it can resolve it in its favor before the end of the coming election year. Therefore, the next rounds will be very fierce and violent. The Israeli retraction and tactics in the previous round were temporary and I do not think they will continue. The Israeli stance in the United Nations was clear. Had it not been for the U.S. veto, Israel would not have listened to any voice of reason. In addition, the Arab stance on the United Nations was much stronger and firmer than previously. Therefore, Israel started feeling that it had fired the first shot in a religious war in the Middle East, the dangers of which it will not be able to shoulder. The Arab stance, represented in Egypt and the other Arab countries, was firm and clear on this matter. Therefore, they started feeling that they had swallowed a dagger, which they need to get rid of as quickly as possible. However, the way out for them was through the Israeli Knesset; it was more an internal tactical matter and less submission to international legitimacy. However, in the next round if the Arabs, Muslims, and Christians who own many parts and holy places of Jerusalem all take a united stance, they will be able to decide the future battle over Jerusalem. The Palestinian side has lost the issue of Jerusalem during past years. Almost 23,000 dunums were expropriated. Therefore, what happened last week merely revealed the frightening Israeli settlement. What Jerusalem are we talking about today? The Jerusalem that was occupied on 5 June 1967 is not the Jerusalem we are talking about now. Four times the area that existed on 5 June is the area that Israel has now taken control of. Israel divided the West Bank from east to west to form a wedge that divides the occupied territories into two parts. Therefore, the coming battle requires Arab, Islamic, and Palestinian forces. I believe that we have to prepare for the coming battle from now on. The Arabs must have some kind of future vision of a concrete scenario to respond to any Israeli moves in Jerusalem, because the coming year of elections is a very dangerous one. There will be elections in the United States and in Israel, therefore, they will not listen to the voice of reason and legitimacy. There should be an Arab stance linking all progress in the peace process with the Arab world to the Jerusalem issue. In other words: No Jerusalem, no peace. There can be no peace without Jerusalem. If the Arabs manage to decide their future battle with this formula, I believe Israel will start calculating a great deal more and counting to one thousand before taking any further steps.

[Correspondent] The Arab and Islamic views of the next round of talks suggest that their stance in the forthcoming stage and during the next round of talks will be more insistent on safeguarding Jerusalem. How can we safeguard Jerusalem's Arab and Islamic character in the next stage?

[Abu-Middayn] The Arab and Islamic stance must be clear. The Saudi defense minister today for the first time spoke strongly and firmly on this issue. The Egyptian and Jordanian stance was clear and free of one-upmanship. Other Arab stances are not actually effective. We do not want to provoke animosities between Arabs and Muslims. Jerusalem must be a factor for pooling all Arab and Islamic potential and resources. The Arab and Islamic nation must have a ready scenario should Israel deviate from the international legitimacy and the peace agreements.

As you know, since the days of the Camp David Accords the issue of Jerusalem has been unequivocal. I want to remind listeners that the Jerusalem issue has been outstanding since 1947 and not 1967. No embassy of any country of the world, not the United States or its allies—even during the aggressive war launched against Egypt in 1956 because Jamal 'Abd-al-Nasir nationalized the Suez canal—Britain and France could not at the time move their embassies to Jerusalem. So why is the West—not all the West but the United States in particular—now initiating the move to move the embassy to Jerusalem? There must be a ready scenario to deal with the U.S. stance, which indicates a domestic struggle between the Democrats and the Republicans in the United States and Jerusalem will be the fuel of this struggle.

The Jerusalem battle has started and the Arabs must continue with it and prepare answers and stances. What scares Israel most is its failure to normalize its ties with the Middle East countries. The new Middle East or the diplomacy of Israel arch fox Peres for a new Middle East will not stop unless the Arabs adopt a unified stance. Last week we cited the Egyptian stance as an example. Pope Shinudah, al-Azhar shaykh, and the Egyptian people reject normalization. No Israeli merchant has succeeded in marketing the Israeli eggs or banana in Cairo streets. This is what is required: Israel must realize it cannot build bridges with the Arab world except through a fair solution to the Palestinian issue. This is what will settle the future of the Palestinian issue, of Jerusalem, and of the conflict with Israel through either peace or war.

Hamas Figure Urges 'Temporary Truce' With Israel

MM2505083495 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 24 May 95 p 4

[Report by Khalid Dawud: "Prominent Leading Hamas Figure Calls For 'Temporary Truce' With Israel"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Gaza — A prominent leading Hamas figure, freed recently, called yesterday for "a temporary truce with Israel to try to make progress politically."

Nizar 'Awadallah (38), who was arrested with Shaykh Ahmad Yasin in 1989 on charges of leading the movement's military wing, admitted that there is "a state of ambiguity and unclarity" among Hamas ranks vis-a-vis the position on military operations against Israel or ways of dealing with the Palestinian National Authority.

A spokesman for Hamas described 'Awadallah as "one of the important officials, and his opinion is highly respected."

'Awadallah, who spent a full six years in prison on charges of issuing orders to abduct and kill two Israeli soldiers in 1989, said that "Hamas must take a clear position, whether it is opting for a comprehensive and clear dialogue or a clear liberation program. What is required is a realistic tactical policy that suits current conditions."

'Awadallah, who was released last Sunday evening, added that the temporary truce for which he is calling is necessary "in order not to put the Palestinian Authority in a difficult position, (especially) as no one can tolerate the current situation" in terms of the dispute between the authority and Hamas.

He went on: "Attempts must be made to achieve all our demands through dialogue with the Palestinian Authority. And I do not believe that we are going to reach an impasse. In fact it is possible to reach an understanding."

However, 'Awadallah said that he fears that the arrest of Hamas leaders and the issuing of sentences against them by the Palestinian state security court might lead to a reduction in the scale of support for this orientation inside the movement.

He said that the sentence passed on Hamas leader Shaykh Sayyid Abu-Musamih — two years in prison — "although he is known as the father of interlocutors and moderates, came as a shock for the movement's leaders."

'Awadallah urged the Palestinian Authority not to respond to Israel's continued pressure to curb the movement's activities, but, rather, to try to reach an understanding with it.

He acknowledged the existence of a tendency inside Hamas to form a political party to speak in its name and the name of the Islamic movement in general in the occupied Palestinian territories.

He said, "there are tendencies toward political action in general, and political action through a party is much better, because that would grant it legal status."

'Awadallah reemphasized that Hamas' "decisions are made inside, not abroad." And that its representatives abroad act as information bureaus for the movement.

He added that his call for a temporary truce with Israel is aimed at giving the movement the opportunity to assess its circumstances and whether it can continue military action.

He ruled out the outbreak of a Palestinian civil war, "because the movement is keen to avert that, since this is one of the movement's political constants."

'Awadallah said that, despite his satisfaction at the Israelis' departure from Gaza, he is sad for the fate of the thousands of Palestinians still held in Israeli jails.

'Awadallah said that he intends to continue his role in working among the ranks of the Islamic movement once he has explored the new conditions and the changes that have occurred in them.

Gaza Hamas Leader Says Attacks To Continue

TA2405142795 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 24 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Shaykh Nizar 'Awadallah, a Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] leader in the Gaza Strip, has said that Hamas will not stop carrying out terror attacks against Israel as long at Israel continues hunting down Hamas activists in the West Bank. According to him, Hamas will be able to stop the attacks only in coordination with the Palestinian Authority [PA]. Shaykh 'Awadallah was released from an Israeli prison last week after serving six years in detention.

The Palestinian Police released four Gaza Hamas activists from custody today. Our correspondent reports that two of them were arrested two months ago on the suspicion of opening fire at Palestinian Police who came to arrest them.

Hamas' al-Zahhar Urges Pressure on Jerusalem Issue

TA2505084095 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0800 GMT 25 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Mahmud al-Zahhar, a Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] leader in the Gaza Strip, has called on the Arab countries to intensify their pressure to make Israel totally forsake its plans to seize lands in Jerusalem and not let it make do with suspending the plan.

Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem reports that al-Zahhar also criticized the decision to postpone the Arab summit on the Jerusalem land seizures that was to take place in Morocco in two days.

'Palestinian Grouping' Factions Meet in Damascus

MM2405151095 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 24 May 95 p 4

[Report by Ibrahim Humaydi: "Islamists Call for Toppling of Oslo Agreement]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Damascus — The Palestinian factions opposed to the Oslo agreement held a central meeting in Damascus yesterday in the presence of Bassam al-Shak'ah, former mayor of Nabulus, and Khalid al-Fahum, head of the National Salvation Front, to discuss the formula of the opposition "Palestinian Grouping," its political program, and its relations with the other Palestinian groupings and the Palestinian Forces Alliance, which includes all the participants except al-Shak'ah and al-Fahum.

Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) leaders did not attend the meeting. The movement was represented by Abu-Muhammad Mustafa, its representative in Damascus. While Islamic Jihad Secretary General Dr. Fathi al-Shaqaqi and Ahmad Jibril, leader of the [Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine]-General Command, and Nayif Hawatimah, leader of the Democratic Front [for the Liberation of Palestine] [DFLP] attended the meeting. The meeting, which was held at the DFLP's headquarters, was also attended by Abu-'Ali Mustafa, deputy secretary general of the Popular Front [for the Liberation of Palestine], instead of the secretary general, George Habash; 'Isam al-Qadi, leader of al-Sa'iqah; Khalid 'Abd-al-Majid, leader of the Popular Struggle Front; Colonel Abu-Musa, leader of Fatah-Uprising; Abu-Khalid al-'Imlah, member of the movement's [Fatah-Uprising] Political Bureau; and 'Ali 'Aziz, representative of the Palestine Liberation Front. [passage omitted]

Palestinian sources have told AL-HAYAH that Hamas' representative criticized the Grouping's organizers for "not coordinating with us before proclaiming the Grouping and before holding the present meeting in Damascus." However, he conveyed Hamas' position as conveyed to him by Muhammad Nazzal, member of the Political Bureau, namely that the movement's position is positive and that "it is willing to continue the dialogue with the Grouping inside [the self-rule area] and in the West Bank. And a representative from Hamas will participate in the dialogues." The sources added that Abu-Muhammad Mustafa told participants that Nazzal will meet with al-Shak'ah in Amman, and that he [Nazzal] "could not come for difficult security reasons. And everyone expressed his hope that Hamas would participate fully in the Grouping."

The sources said that participants agreed to "reinforce the political document being drafted by a committee headed by al-Shaqaqi. And that it stipulates that the relationship between the alliance (the opposition Palestinian Forces Alliance set up last year) and the grouping is one of integration. It also stipulates the necessity to confront the occupation and to work to topple the Oslo agreement." [passage omitted]

Al-Shak'ah said that they discussed "conditions in the occupied territories in view of the Palestinian people's daily suffering and the Israelis' confiscation of Palestinian land." While Hawatimah announced that their central meeting dealt with "ways of developing Palestinian opposition forces and the Grouping's formula so as to include all prominent figures, the opposition, and organizations in order to unify their forces to develop opposition" against the Oslo agreement.

Al-Shaqaqi stressed that opposition forces "will continue all forms of action, including armed action, against the occupation in all the occupied territories, including the administrative self-rule areas and the colonies [settlements] areas in the occupied territories." He stressed the need for the Palestinian Grouping inside the territories and the Alliance abroad "to be two pictures of one thing, and that a political program acceptable to all factions must be agreed — a program whose minimum is not less than the program" of the Forces Alliance. He pointed out that the meeting of the organizations' leaders "confirms that there is popular solidarity inside and abroad with a view to toppling the Oslo agreement, since the participants represent the majority of the Palestinian people, and they are their vanguards." [passage omitted]

Al-Shaqaqi on Meeting with 'Grouping' Leader

NC2405195795 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Arabic 1730 GMT 24 May 95

[Telephone interview with Islamic Jihad Secretary General Fathi al-Shaqaqi, in Damascus, by 'Isam Hasan, in Tehran, on 24 May—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Hasan] Dr. Fathi al-Shaqaqi, the meetings of the 10 Palestinian factions with a representative from the occupied territory are expected to end today. What has been achieved during these meetings? Will a final statement be issued?

[Al-Shaqaqi] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Meetings began yesterday between the leaders of the 10 Palestinian factions comprising the Alliance of the Palestinian Forces and Bassam al-Shak'ah, secretary of the Palestinian Grouping, which was formed in Nabulus, the West Bank, in February 1995. The main meeting, which was attended by the leaders all factions, lasted several hours, during which the conferees discussed the Palestinian Grouping's political program and political document. They also discussed the Palestinian Grouping's relationship with the Alliance of the Palestinian Forces, which was formed in Damascus after the Oslo accord. The Alliance of the Palestinian Forces blessed this grouping and authorized its secretary, Bassam al-Shak'ah, to work to include in the grouping the 10 factions and all independent national and Islamic personalities inside the occupied territory. As I said, the alliance blessed this grouping. This support and blessing will be explained in a statement to be issued by the alliance. A committee of some parties to the alliance was also formed to discuss the grouping's political document and to work to consolidate it and produce it in a way satisfactory to all.

The conferees agreed that the relationship between the Alliance of the Palestinian Forces and the Palestinian Grouping will be a relationship of integration, unity, and permanent cohesion.

[Hasan] Some believe, or more precisely are afraid, that the 10 Palestinian factions want to establish bridges of dialogue with the 'Arafat authority through Bassam al-Shak'ah. What is your comment?

[Al-Shaqaqi] This is very strange talk. First of all, the 10 factions are not contemplating a dialogue with Yasir 'Arafat. We know that Hamas and Islamic Jihad are under pressure from 'Arafat to establish this dialogue. Nevertheless, the dialogue does not exist. Even the field and procedural meetings between Islamic Jihad and the authority were suspended about one month ago. Regarding Bassam al- Shak'ah, he is a brave struggler and he strongly calls for the downfall of the Oslo accord. He will not begin a dialogue with the Palestinian Authority.

Islamic Jihad Reportedly Appoints New Media Spokesman

JN2405120195 Amman AL-SABIL in Arabic 23-29 May 95 p 14

[FBIS Translated Text] A well-informed Palestinian source has said that the Islamic Jihad Movement has appointed a new media spokesman in Gaza to replace former spokesman Shaykh 'Abdallah al-Shami. The source told QUDS PRESS that the new spokesman is Shaykh Nafidh 'Azzam. The source attributed this change to the controversial statements made by al-Shami after his release from a Palestinian prison. These statements were then denied by the Movement's sources.

Statement Attributed to Islamic Jihad Assails Leaders

NC2405165495 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 18 May 95 p 13

[FBIS Translated Text] A statement in the name of the Islamic Jihad in Palestine was disseminated in Beirut yesterday assailing the movement's secretary general, Fathi al-Shaqaqi, accusing him of embezzlement, and mentioning divisions within the ranks. The statement, attributed to a responsible source in the Islamic Jihad in Palestine, notes "a hidden internal conflict in the movement for some time between the movement's general guide Shaykh 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Awdah's wing and al-Shaqaqi's wing.

Responding to what he described as contradictory and irresponsible statements by 'Abdallah al-Shami and Fathi al-Shaqaqi over halting jihad operations against the Zionist enemy in the Gaza Strip and over relations with the self-government authority and the handing over of weapons, the source said the movement cannot officially accept "any statements attributed to particular individuals claiming to belong to the movement on pledges to halt armed struggle against the Zionist enemy inside Palestine," because they offend it and harm its struggle. No one can slander "the 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam," the armed arm of the movement, or claim to represent it—not al-Shami, al-Shaqaqi, 'Azzam, or anyone else.

The source said 'Abdallah al-Shami and Muhammad Hindi were released from the prison of 'Arafat's Authority after al-Shaqaqi personally concluded a deal with 'Arafat. In jail they pledged to declare that they will halt jihad operations.

Later another handwritten statement in the name of the Jihad movement denied that the first statement had anything to do with the movement. The new statement said: It is "a fabrication by suspect individuals who have ties with bodies hostile to our people."

Hamas, Rejectionist Front Win Bi'r Zayt Elections

TA2405175695 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 24 May 95

[Announcer-read report]

[FBIS Translated Text] Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and the rejectionist front won the Student Union elections at Bi'r Zayt University.

The vote counting ended a short while ago with the following results: Fatah received 21 seats in the student council, while Hamas and the rejectionist front won 30 seats. Contacts began this evening among the movements that participated in the elections.

About 3,000 students study at Bi'r Zayt University, and it is the largest educational institution in the territories. The election format was changed this year, and it was decided to choose a 51-member council.

The voters included a couple who got married today but were not ready to give up their right to vote.

Our correspondent in the territories Yoram Kohen notes that in the previous elections, Hamas and the rejectionist movement won the majority of the votes.

Muslims Win More College Elections

TA2505084295 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0800 GMT 25 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In yesterday's elections, the Islamic bloc won all nine seats on the student council of the al-Birah Medical College. Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem reports that this is the third time the Islamic bloc won the elections there.

The Islamic bloc also won all nine seats on the students council at 'Abdallah Bin-Husayn College in East Jerusalem. Yesterday, the factions opposing the Oslo agreements won most of the seats on the student council of Bi'r Zayt University.

At the same time, Fatah, which supports the peace process, won the majority of seats on Bethlehem University's student council.

U.S. Report on 'Arafat Succession Cited

JN2205174895 Paris AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI in Arabic 19 May 95 pp 18-21

[Report by Mufid 'Abd-al-Rahman in Washington]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI publishes extensive excerpts of a report, which the CIA has issued and which contains predictions and analyses on many Arab and world affairs. The 192-page CIA report, which was obtained by AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI, was submitted by the CIA to the U.S. Senate Intelligence Committee last January. Some newspapers published brief excerpts of the report, which was collected and prepared only last week. In view of the importance of this report, we will publish large excerpts of it.

The report is, in fact, the testimonies of three CIA directors — namely, James Woolsey, former director of the CIA who resigned only a short time after giving his testimony at the Congress; James Clapper, director of the Defense Intelligence Agency, DIA; and Toby Gati, assistant secretary of state for intelligence and research. In addition to the testimony, the report contains many specific questions addressed by the members of the Senate Intelligence Committee to those officials on specific issues and their written and oral answers. Meanwhile, the three officials did not respond to many questions made by the members of the committee and asked that these issues be discussed in secret sessions. The discussions in these secret sessions have not been published and are not expected to be published in the near future. The report also contains the expectations of major CIA departments vis-a-vis many issues of concern to the United States, beginning with Russia, Korea, Cuba, espionage in the trade, industry, and scientific fields carried out against the United States by friendly countries — such as France — and ending with the effect of the AIDS epidemic on Third World armies.

Regarding the Arab world and the Middle East, the report covers many areas, countries, and organizations, particularly Iran, Iraq, and Libya which are placed on the Department of State's list of countries sponsoring international terrorism. Furthermore, the report discusses in detail the PLO and what the situation will be like if the Palestinian president goes away from the arena. The report also speaks in brief about Hizballah in Lebanon and its relationship with Iran. The report, however, does not deal with the rest of the Arab countries, such as Sudan, Lebanon, and Syria, knowing that Syria and Sudan are among the states which sponsor international terrorism.

The CIA report expects two Arab governments [not further identified] to remain in power for at least one year. The report also forecasts what will happen in the PLO in case Chairman Yasir 'Arafat goes away from the arena for any reason and the effect of this on the peace process between the Palestinians and Israel.

Regarding the PLO and the Palestinian National Authority, the report devotes large part to deal with two important issues: The first issue is the Palestinian president's possible continuation in power for another year at least, because the report speaks about these countries, organizations, and individuals for one-year period only. The second issue is the PLO's compliance with its pledge not to carry out terrorist operations. The report says that now there is no successor to 'Arafat, adding that it is not expected to see a successor to him in the next six months at least. However, the report says that if the Palestinian leader goes away from the arena he would be succeeded by an incongruous alliance of Palestinian leaders from the West Bank, Gaza, and the PLO, which is still making Tunis as the base for some of its institutions and officials.

The report deals, in detail, with the following expected developments:

— A group of senior PLO officials are expected to supervise and care for the Palestinian National Authority and its relationship with Israel and the international community. This group is expected to include Mahmud 'Abbas, also known as Abu-Mazin; Abu-al-Lutf [Faruq Qaddumi]; Nabil Sha'th; and Abu-'Ala' [Ahmad Quray'] from outside [the occupied territory]. The group also includes Faysal al-Husayni from inside. This new leadership should work closely with local popular leaders and should also include a representative of the Palestinian security forces.

The local leaders, who emerged in the occupied territory during the Palestinian intifadah — most of whom are from Fatah — will form the second command in the Palestinian leadership. Those leaders will work closely with pragmatic Islamic leaders, including some Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] leaders, with whom they established strong relations during the intifadah. The objective of the second command in the Palestinian leadership is to reduce military operations against Israel from areas under the Palestinian National Authority's control. Meanwhile, Islamic extremists will work toward halting the peace process by escalating armed operations against Israel inside and outside following 'Arafat's absence from the arena, in an attempt to stop the peace process and to take a leading position in the Palestinian territory.

— The Palestinian security departments are expected to be loyal to the new Palestinian leadership, provided that this leadership demonstrates firmness, decisiveness, and readiness to put an end to Hamas' challenges to the National Authority.

The report says that all those who would form the new Palestinian leadership accept peace with Israel and pledge to render the peace process a success. The report, however, reaffirms that following 'Arafat's departure from the arena the progress in the talks between Israel and the Palestinians will slow down as a result of the expected escalation in Hamas' operations and until the new leadership proves its credibility as a partner in the talks.

Certain bodies in the Congress concentrate on the issue of terrorist operations and the PLO's connection with them because of their own political agendas. Regarding this issue, the report says that — and this might not please those who presented specific questions to the CIA officials — the PLO has not carried out any terrorist operation against Israel since May 1990. This is a reference to the failing operation carried out by Abu-al-'Abbas [Muhammad 'Abbas]. In fact, the report adds that, since the signing of the peace agreement at the White House in September 1993, the PLO has been working to help stop terrorism inside Israel and the occupied territory. In addition to Hamas, some PLO dissident groups, which are not under the command of Yasir 'Arafat, attempt to carry out anti-Israeli operations. However, we believe that restrictions are being practiced on the opposition fronts, including the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, despite the fact that both fronts have carried out operations in the occupied territory without any coordination with the Palestinian Authority.

Furthermore, the report does not deny the fact that some Palestinian quarters, including the Palestinian security forces, have liquidated who were believed to be Palestinian agents [to Israel]. The report, however, does not describe these acts as terrorist operations. [passage omitted]

Arab-Israeli Talks

PLO, Israel Said To Conclude Agreement on Jerusalem

JN2105203795 Paris AL-MUHARRIR in Arabic 22 May 95 p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo—AL-MUHARRIR—Despite conflicting reports on the results the Palestinians have achieved in their recent negotiations with the Israelis, AL-MUHARRIR's information indication that the PLO showed initial willingness to settle the Jerusalem issue in a way that is in line with the Israeli viewpoint. However, the Palestinians's recognition of the holy city as Israel's capital would not be declared directly. In return, Israel should decide on the issue of Palestinian control over the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

According to sources, this proposal received Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's initial acceptance. Rabin placed a number of conditions for the final acceptance of this proposal. The conditions are:

1. The PLO should directly and frankly recognize Jerusalem as the capital of Israel.

2. Israel should then agree to give the Palestinians some West Bank areas under Palestinian control.

3. The Israeli Army would be withdrawn within a short period of time.

Our information indicates that the Israeli response created a division within the Palestinian leadership. Moreover, although he is the architect of this proposal, Yasir 'Arafat was put in an embarrassing situation because a frank Palestinian recognition of Jerusalem as the capital of Israel is a sensitive issue. This is also the case because the Jerusalem issue is not only important to the Palestinians, but to, all other Arab and Islamic countries as well.

AL-MUHARRIR has learned that certain Arab countries held contacts with 'Arafat, who denied that any such contacts took place. However, secret information leaked from the office of Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres confirms that the information is true. This information indicates that a secret agreement was actually concluded between the Palestinians and Israel. Israel did not reveal any information about this agreement based on the Palestinians' request. However, Israeli Foreign Ministry officials told the Palestinians that if they do not stop raising problems over the Jerusalem issue at the current stage, then the Israeli Foreign Ministry will regrettably have to announce the secret agreement concluded since the Oslo agreement.

Algeria

Car Bomb Attack Against Algiers Hotel Foiled

'Tragic Consequences' Averted

LD2405155395 Paris Radio France International in French 1230 GMT 24 May 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] A car bomb attack against the nicest hotel in Algiers, the Aurassi, has been foiled. Three local dailies reported this today. According to them, the foiled bomb attack could have had tragic consequences since many official figures were in the building. This latest alert confirms that bomb attacks are increasing, both in the capital and in neighboring regions. [passage omitted]

One thing is for certain concerning this news reported in the newspapers EL WATAN, LA TRIBUNE, and AL-KHABAR: the Aurassi Hotel, situated a few yards from the Defense Ministry, is an obvious target, since congresses are often held there and public figures often stay there. The building is under tight surveillance.

Yesterday at least four ministers and all the provincial chiefs of the country were staying there, among other customers. However, according to eyewitness accounts heard inside the building, there was no explosion, but this does not mean that bombs had not been planted there. There were several bombs, according to the press, including one placed in a vehicle parked under the hotel, which would have made it necessary for customers to be evacuated.

Papers Report Several Bombs Found

NC2405114895 Paris AFP in English 1121 GMT 24 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Algiers, May 24 (AFP) — Security forces have foiled a car bomb attack against the largest hotel in Algiers, according to press reports Wednesday [24 May].

Newspapers gave varied accounts of the incident. El Watan said two bombs were defused Tuesday in the parking lot of the Hotel El-Aurassi overlooking the Bay of Algiers, including a lorry packed with 20 kilograms (45 pounds) of TNT and parked near a water boiler.

La Tribune said, however, that five bombs were found in hotel's parking lot, and that one, placed in a lorry, exploded, causing some damage.

The daily Al-Khabar said the bombs were defused and the clients of the hotel evacuated.

On Tuesday, four ministers were present at the hotel for a meeting of Algerian pharmaceuticals. Algeria's local administrators were also there for a meeting, newspapers said.

Over the past few months, armed Islamic groups have stepped up car bomb attacks. Last week, a car bomb attack near an Algiers police station in the east of the capital injured 13 and caused extensive damages.

On January 30, a car bomb attack on the central police station of Algiers killed 42 and left 300 injured.

Security has been tightened in strategic areas following the wave of car bomb attacks. Cars have been banned from certain streets at night which are near police stations.

Further on 21 May Council of Ministers Meeting

LD2205170995 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 22 May 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Council of Ministers met yesterday under the chairmanship of Head of State Liamine Zeroual. The Council was briefed by the relevant ministers on the diplomatic situation, the security situation and the economic and financial situation as well as on preparations under way to hold the forthcoming presidential elections. [passage omitted]

The Council of Ministers examined the draft decree to introduce amendments to the electoral law; the latter was passed in anticipation of the forthcoming presidential elections. [passage omitted]

The draft decree which proposed the introduction of amendments to the electoral law has, however, stipulated the following:

— Necessary measures may be taken to allow mass participation of voters;

— period of voting may be extended to 72 hours;

— members of the security forces may be allowed to vote at their places of work and Algerians abroad may be allowed to vote at the Algerian representations abroad;

— and measures to bolster the credibility of the presidential elections and democracy in Algeria may also be taken.

Among the stipulations above which might attract one's attention are those relevant to the application of candidates.

His/her application must include:

— A birth certificate;

— a certificate of citizenship which proves that the candidate is of Algerian origin;

— a certificate of good behavior;
— a picture of the candidate;
— a certificate of citizenship of his/her spouse;
— a statement on the value of the candidate's property;
— a certificate which proves that the candidate had taken part in the national liberation war if he/she is born before 1 July 1942.

The candidate must collect 75,000 signatures. Furthermore, he must sign a pledge that he shall respect the Constitution, reject violence as a political means, respect individual and public freedoms, respect human rights, respect democracy within the framework of national values, respect political pluralism, respect of the principle of alternation of power by allowing the Algerian people to choose freely, respect and promote the values of Islam, the religion of the state, and refrain from using Islam and regionalism for partisan aims. And finally he must pledge to promote the national identity in its three dimensions: Islam, Arabism, and Berberism. [passage omitted]

Egypt

Foreign Ministry Welcomes Syrian-Israeli 'Progress'

NC2405210095 Cairo MENA in Arabic
2018 GMT 24 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 24 May — Egypt has welcomed U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's statement on progress in the Syrian-Israeli negotiations.

An authoritative Foreign Ministry source said Egypt hopes this progress will be a step on the road to a comprehensive and just peace. Egypt also hopes that similar progress will occur on the other tracks, including the Israeli-Lebanese track, and that the implementation of the Israeli-Palestinian Declaration of Principles will be accelerated.

PLO Chairman 'Arafat Arrives on Visit

Reviews Developments With Musa

NC2405173395 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1715 GMT 24 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 24 May (MENA) — Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa this evening met with Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat, who arrived in Cairo earlier today.

The two reviewed the developments in the Palestinian issue and the results of the Palestinian president's talks with Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres and King Husayn of Jordan. President Husni Mubarak is expected to meet with 'Arafat tomorrow to discuss topics of mutual interest.

Holds Private Meeting With Mubarak

NC2505080995 Cairo MENA in Arabic
0712 GMT 25 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 25 May (MENA) — President Husni Mubarak and Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat held talks at the Presidential Palace in Heliopolis this morning. The meeting was confined to the two presidents.

'Arafat arrived in Cairo last night and met Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa.

Musa Details Mubarak-'Arafat Talks

NC2505105095 Cairo MENA in Arabic
0935 GMT 25 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 25 May (MENA) — Following the meeting between President Husni Mubarak and Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat, Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa said the talks focussed on the Palestinian-Israeli peace negotiations and expectations of them, notably the redeployment of the Israeli forces in the West Bank and the Palestinian elections. He noted that 1 July was set [by the Palestinians and Israelis] as the date for reaching agreement on these issues.

He said President 'Arafat will now return to Gaza to meet a Russian envoy. He added that Egyptian contacts with President 'Arafat will continue to follow up developments on the Palestinian track of negotiations because of its extreme importance within the peace process.

Asked about the announcement that Syria and Israel reached an agreement in principle to resume negotiations between military experts on security arrangements, the foreign minister said he commented on this yesterday. He referred to the Foreign Ministry statement welcoming the announcement.

He said this is a step toward peace and said he hoped it would be followed by progress on the other negotiating tracks, especially the Lebanese and Palestinian tracks.

Asked about the steps that should follow the Israeli Government decision suspending land confiscation in Jerusalem, Musa said the Israeli decision was a step in the right direction but other steps are needed. He stressed the need to suspend all such acts and to take no "unilateral step" prejudicing Jerusalem's future.

Musa said Arab and international unanimity toward that issue was evident. He stressed that the reaction will be strong if such a thing is repeated.

Asked if the Israeli decision was a tactical step taken for domestic Israeli considerations, the foreign minister said: We should not preoccupy the Arab public with the reasons behind the decision; we should leave it to experts and academicians to analyze the reasons.

What is important is that the suspension decision was made, he said, stressing the importance of this being part of a "firm" policy.

On a report published yesterday about the deployment of nuclear missiles near Jerusalem, the foreign minister said: This news did not pass easily as far as we are concerned, and we are following up on it.

Asked if President 'Arafat informed President Mubarak of the results of his latest talks with Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, Musa said that President 'Arafat informed President Mubarak of the details of the talks. He said 'Arafat described his talks with Peres as "positive."

The foreign minister was asked about Egyptian-U.S. relations, especially following the U.S. veto at the UN Security Council. He answered: Egyptian-U.S. relations are moving on the right track. It is not in our interest to have tense relations with the United States. On the contrary, these relations must be good.

He added: Our position on the U.S. veto is known, and it is related with all recent developments concerning Jerusalem, developments that ended with the Israeli Government's retreat and suspension of the land confiscation decision.

What matters, he stressed, is that the final result was "a success and a message" to all unilateral measures that may harm the peace process.

On President Mubarak's visit to France tomorrow and whether his talks in Paris will deal with the Middle East peace process and Europe's role in boosting it, Musa said: Of course the peace process will be one of the topics of discussion, especially with France having an important role to play in this process. He stressed that Egyptian-French and Arab-French relations "are of extreme importance."

The foreign minister also noted the importance of the European role in the peace process. He pointed out that France is the current chairman of the European Union, and will remain so until the end of June.

He again stressed the importance of the European role and described it as "a strong role we welcome."

He said the Middle East developments, especially concerning the peace process, stress the importance of a strong European role.

Continued 'All-Out' Pressure on Israel Urged

NC2505061895 Cairo MENA in Arabic
0600 GMT 25 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 24 May (MENA) — The newspaper AL-AHRAM calls for continuing all-out Arab pressure on Israel to make it abandon the policy of creating a fait accompli in the holy city before the final stage of the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations to determine the fate of Jerusalem.

In an editorial today the newspaper stresses that the Arabs should not count on the Israeli decision on freezing the expropriation of Arab land in East Jerusalem, because it was not achieved by Arab pressure as much as by political factors within the Israeli regime. These factors were efficiently employed by 'Abd-al-Wahhab al-Darawishah, leader of the Arab Democratic Party, and used by the Likud as part of its plans to settle accounts with the Labor Party-led ruling coalition.

Within this context the paper emphasizes the need to support the al-Darawishah-led Arab Democratic Party and the other progressive parties known for backing Arab rights and seeking a just and all-embracing peace.

AL-AHRAM stresses the need for careful political moves that use all the cards, particularly the economic ones, to put pressure on Israel. The paper cautions against opening the door wide to economic and regional cooperation with Israel before reaching comprehensive and just solutions to all outstanding issues, primarily the Palestinian people's rights and the Golan issue.

Commentary Analyzes Israeli Expropriation Freeze

NC2405150995 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1140 GMT 24 May 95

[Commentary by 'Atif 'Umar: "The Suspension of the Israeli Decision To Expropriate Palestinian Land in Jerusalem: Is it a Retraction Out of Principle or a Temporary Tactic?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The recent Israeli stance, in which Israel announced that it accepts freezing Israeli settlements in east Jerusalem, could be seen as one of the courageous stances characteristic of alert Arab leaderships that adhere to justice regardless of difficulties and shun injustice irrespective of enticements. Despite the element of surprise in the Israeli decision, one could say that general Arab rejection of Israeli practices in the occupied territories, particularly with regard to Jerusalem, could be one of the things applying pressure on the

Israeli Government to force it to retract these stances, particularly since the Israelis realize the special significance Jerusalem has for the Muslims and the Christian brothers. In addition, pressure also came from inside Israel when 62 Israeli Knesset members showed solidarity with the members of the Arab Democratic Party and threatened to withdraw confidence from the Rabin Government if it refused to go back on its stance on Jerusalem. Also, the call for convening an Arab mini-summit in Morocco and the possible results of such a summit, such as the issuance of group decisions, as well as the success of Arab diplomats in the United Nations to gain the support of 14 Security Council members out of the 15 in accepting a draft resolution that condemned Israeli practices in the occupied territories and asked Israel to retract its decision to occupy Palestinian land east of Jerusalem, makes us realize that all these factors converged to compel Israel to make this decision, which it hates.

If this decision was received by political circles in the world with welcome, the Arab capitals received it with some caution, particularly since it is a postponement of a decision made by the Israeli Government, not a cancellation. The decision was made to form a ministerial committee chaired by Mr. Rabin to discuss the problem of the occupied territories. In addition, statements by Israeli Construction and Housing Minister Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer on his ministry's determination to set up 4,500 housing units in Jerusalem for the Jewish settlers reveals one aspect of the Israeli designs over the occupied territories, particularly in the city of Jerusalem, whose geographic and demographic character Israel is trying to change to transform it into its capital. To do so, Israel is using Jewish pressure inside the U.S. Administration after the election campaign started early, along with the frenzied competition to gather votes, particularly from the Jews who control the finances, economy, and media.

Despite the Israeli practices against the Palestinian citizens in Jerusalem to force them to move outside the city through threats and intimidation and the special relations between Israel and the fanatical Americans who dedicate all their potential toward strengthening Israel in the occupied territories and Jerusalem in particular, the Arabs can neutralize the U.S. stance that supports Israeli positions, despite its violation of legitimacy and departure from logic, if they use contemporary language, as happened at the Security Council, away from inflexibility and fantasy.

Calm, objective proposals and acceptable logic succeeded in gaining the support of 14 votes out of a total of 15 representing all the members of the Security Council. With this approach, Egypt continues its efforts with all world capitals to confirm the rights of the Palestinians to their land, whether in Jerusalem or elsewhere, and to warn against the dangers of hampering the peace process after all the factors of success have been prepared for it. Had it not been for the wrong practices, which surface every now and then, the peace ship would have set sail in the new Middle East they are talking about.

Report on Finance Minister's Resignation 'Baseless'

NC2405125895 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1240 GMT 24 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 24 May (MENA) — Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi denied a press report that Finance Minister Dr. Muhammad al-Razzaz has resigned.

In statements to correspondents today, Dr. Sidqi said this report is completely baseless.

Interior Minister Describes Security Situation

Says Country Stable

NC2405155395 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1410 GMT 24 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 24 May (MENA) — Interior Minister Hasan al-Alfi has stated that Egypt is experiencing stability and security, something all those who have visited Egypt recently confirm. The latest of these visitors were the guests of the Ninth UN Congress on the Prevention of Crime and Treatment of Offenders in Cairo three weeks ago. He pointed out that this required effort and the sweat of men who did not see their beds until the congress ended.

Al-Alfi said in an interview with the weekly magazine AL-MUSAWWAR to be published on Friday [26 May] that the police force succeeded in every case during recent years and identified the perpetrators of the crimes. Some 97 percent were arrested, one of the highest averages anywhere.

He added that efforts have recently been going into modernizing the technical crimefighting equipment by using updated communications systems and equipment used in uncovering explosives, along with efforts in training the individual and preparing him well.

The interior minister pointed out that recently 126 local, regional, and international conferences were held in Egypt including the International Conference on Population and Development, the Ninth UN Congress on the Prevention of Crime and Treatment of Offenders, and the opera Aida. He said not one incident took place to poison the atmosphere during these events.

Al-Alfi clarified that the Interior Ministry aborted many schemes to reactivate terrorist groups inside Egypt by sending some leaders operating abroad to Egypt from Afghanistan and Sudan to reorganize these groups. But their attempts failed and their schemes have been aborted. Twelve of those who returned were killed during the past three weeks.

On security in Upper Egypt, Interior Minister Hasan al-Alfi stressed the need to continue confronting the terrorist elements until the end. He described these elements as cancerous and said they must be removed.

The interior minister noted that the map of the terrorist organizations is crystal clear to the security leaders. He said the reality confirms this, since people now feel security and stability as a result of the security forces' efforts. These forces depend on information that became clear to them from the comprehensive organizational maps of the terrorist elements.

Al-Alfi said in his interview with AL-MUSAWWAR that these terrorist groups use religion as a veil. He noted the variety and abundance of these groups, saying it was because they all aspire to power and receive funding from abroad.

He added that the danger now lies abroad and that many terrorist elements travel around the world freely, particularly since some of these countries consider them political refugees. This is where the danger lies, because they meet regularly with the world leaders in terrorism to commit their crimes and provide training and funding to execute terrorist activities.

Al-Alfi clarified that the terrorist groups abroad are at odds with each other and each works for his own private interests.

On the Muslim Brotherhood and their position on the map of extremist groups in Egypt, al-Alfi said this group is not legal according to the Constitution. He pointed to the behavior of some elements from this group, individuals or unions, when they violated the law and committed acts that constitute a crime. He said that investigations are taking place into contacts between the Brotherhood and the terrorist organizations.

On the role of the security forces in the coming Consultative Council and People's Assembly elections, which will be followed by the local council elections, al-Alfi said the role of the police is restricted to applying the law, legitimacy, and absolute neutrality among all sides, while maintaining law and order during the elections and preventing any violations.

On human rights groups in Egypt, al-Alfi rejected their activities and said: We have the law and Constitution for organizing public affairs in Egypt. There are judicial sides in Egypt who have the right to inspect prisons and prevent human rights violations. He said Egypt is one of the countries most concerned about human rights. He said it does not make sense that Egypt, steeped in history, violates human rights.

Concluding his dialogue with AL-MUSAWWAR, al-Alfi stressed that security cannot be divided. If the police forces are active in one branch and ignore another, then this would cause an imbalance, because public security, whether criminal, political, economic, or social, cannot be divided. He said we are moving along parallel lines in the various security sectors.

On Extraditing 'Terrorist Criminals'

NC2405184895 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1809 GMT 24 May 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Cairo, 24 May (MENA) — Interior Minister Hasan al-Alfi stressed that great efforts are being made in all the security spheres so they can be put to the best use by the security men and the people.

Speaking at a news conference he held today after laying the cornerstone for the Police Hospital in Mahallat Marhum in Tanta, the minister said: Being a policeman is a mission and not a profession or a job. We must all take care of Egypt's security and hopes.

Replying to a question on the results of the international conference on crime recently held in Cairo, Minister al-Alfi said: The whole world was dazzled by the results we reached in confronting the crimes of terrorism. The whole world is asking for the Egyptian security organ's expertise in confronting international terrorism. He stressed that Egypt has succeeded in encircling terrorism and that the remaining few soon will be eliminated as a result of the people's cooperation with the police.

He stressed that public security is an indivisible whole when it comes to achieving the state's social and economic security. He said that the efforts made in the conference on crime resulted in the conclusion of bilateral agreements with participating countries. He added that the conference linked terrorist crimes and organized crime and this link means that terrorist criminals can be extradited, as is in the case of organized crime. He said that criminals can be extradited in ordinary crimes, therefore those involved in terrorist crimes must be extradited just like perpetrators of ordinary crimes and the perpetrator of a terrorist crime should not be able to flee to another country. This was a great success for us. He noted that bilateral agreements on the extradition of criminals will be concluded in the future and that some terrorist leaders now live in some of these countries as political refugees, which is wrong. [passage omitted]

Muslim Brotherhood Leader Interviewed

95LD0071A London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 7 May 95 p 7

[Interview with Mustafa Mashhur, deputy general guide of the Muslim Brotherhood group in Egypt, by Muhammad Salah on 6 May; place not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] Mustafa Mashhur, deputy general guide of the banned Muslim Brotherhood [MB] group in Egypt, has again denied the existence of any connection between the group and terrorism, maintaining that essential differences exist with hard-line Islamists engaged in a wide-scale confrontation with the Egyptian Government.

In an interview with AL-HAYAH yesterday, Mashhur blamed the Egyptian authorities for not tackling the phenomenon of violence correctly. He called for dialogue and releasing liberties.

The text of the interview follows:

[Salah] You established an alliance with the Wafd Party in the 1984 elections and with the Labor Party in the 1987 elections. How do you evaluate your position toward the two parties?

[Mashhur] The government is trying to prevent us from exercising our natural, constitutional, and legal right to parliamentary representation and participation in elections. To do this, it has resorted to an election system based on party lists. It also has made the establishment of a party dependent on its wishes and announced its refusal to allow us to have a party. Therefore, we cooperated with the Wafd Party in the 1984 elections to nominate some Brothers on its list. We did not agree among us on a common program because no alliance existed in the proper sense of the word. We thank the Wafd Party leadership for its stand. In the 1987 elections, we established what was known as the Islamic alliance between us and the Labor and the Liberal Parties. We agreed on common principles and a unified program. The elections took place under one banner, which was "Islam is the Solution." This alliance was considered a big development in Egyptian parliamentary life. The largest number of deputies ever known in Egyptian opposition history won in the elections. They had a strong effect and memorable positions, which left an impact on parliamentary life.

[Salah] Doesn't the banner "Islam is the Solution" infer a charge of disbelief against competitors from other political trends?

[Mashhur] Some people have raised the banner of "Socialism is the Solution," "Nationalism is the Solution," etc. The fact that we have raised the banner of "Islam is the Solution" does not mean that we are accusing others of not believing. On the contrary, we have opposed the method of accusing others of not believing, but we think that the Islamic solution to our problems is the best.

[Salah] Do you support the establishment of a Coptic party? Could such a party change the political conflict into a religious conflict?

[Mashhur] We believe in a multiparty system. We have no objection to the establishment of a Coptic party. This does not mean, as others have claimed, that this will cause sectarian strife or religious argument. Our relations with the Copts have been good and without a blemish since the days of Imam al-Banna. Islam has charted the way to treat them kindly and fairly.

[Salah] You have announced your intention to participate in the next People's Assembly elections. Which electoral system do you prefer—the personal or the list system?

[Mashhur] The electoral system is part of the democratic system. It should have all the necessary elements to achieve the shura or correct democracy. The supreme authority in the country has the absolute power to allow or not to allow the establishment of a party. In this case, the list system allows the government to impose its hegemony on those it permits to participate in the electoral process and run in the parliamentary elections. Consequently, the government can exclude any group from participating in the elections by refusing to recognize its entity as a political party.

[Salah] Are you demanding the establishment of an MB party or a political party representing all the Islamic trends?

[Mashhur] If the Islamic trends agree on a unified program for a single party, this would be good, as this program would include everything Islam requires of us. Accomplishing this objective now is not easy. Therefore, we are asking for approval to establish an MB party so we can have our own headquarters, newspapers, and other facilities, like the other parties, and exercise our activity under the Constitution.

[Salah] Would you agree to abandon the idea of an Islamic party if the government gave you the freedom to engage in political activity?

[Mashhur] We are not keen on establishing an Islamic party. What is important is for the government to allow us to engage in political activity without restrictions. It should not issue laws to restrict this freedom or say that we are an illegal group, etc.

[Salah] Some people are saying that the extremists have sprung from among the Brothers. The fact that most of the extremist groups base their belief on Sayyid Qutb's ideas has reinforced this belief. What is your response to that?

[Mashhur] Everyone is free to think and to follow the line he believes. The Brothers have chosen the line that they think is right. We pray to God for wisdom, good advice, and keeping away from violence and terrorism. We have called on the young people to follow this line. We cannot make everyone abide by our beliefs. If some people choose to follow a different line, it would be unfair to say that they had sprung from among the Brothers and that we must bear the responsibility for their actions.

The proof is that many violent incidents took place in the past 20 years since we came out of prison. No proof of the Brothers' participation in any of these incidents could be found. We have no connection with violence or terrorism. Some people have blamed the ideas of Sayyid Qutb. Some young people have deviated from and misrepresented these ideas.

[Salah] The extremists have attacked the Brothers. Dr. Ayman al-Zawahiri, leader of the al-Jihad Group, has accused them of not believing. You say that you represent the shari'ah. What is the disagreement about?

[Mashhur] Of what we know about them, there is an essential difference between us on the concept of the Islamic government, the meaning of shura, the legitimacy of elections, the status of the Muslim woman in Islamic society, and the status of non-Muslims and their rights in a Muslim state. All these are fundamental and important issues. Furthermore, disagreement on the method of work is no less important than disagreement on principles, beliefs, and jurisprudence. This is particularly true because we reject the theory of accusing others of not believing, which some people champion. We have always affirmed that we are preachers and not judges.

[Salah] Why have you not played any role in the attempt to persuade the extremists to end the violence?

[Mashhur] We do not know them nor do we know their leaders, but we have expressed our views in writing. These views are based on Islamic teachings. We hope that they will read them and benefit from them. Nevertheless, we hold the government responsible for not tackling this phenomenon in the right way. We say that violence breeds violence. Freedoms must be released, the existing crises must be solved, and dialogue must be held. The government, however, has rejected all this.

[Salah] Although you have condemned the acts of violence, you have used them to criticize the government and condemn its policy.

[Mashhur] We do not exploit acts of violence to criticize and condemn the government. We denounce violence, whatever its source may be, and try to diagnose the situation carefully. We do not absolve the government of responsibility for continuing this phenomenon because it has not sought a concrete solution. It has contented itself with tackling the issue by security means.

[Salah] You have always objected to the continued use of the emergency law, although it has provided a chance for the police to contain the extremists.

[Mashhur] The emergency law is used when countries face critical conditions. It might have been appropriate to use the law in 1981 following the assassination of President Anwar al-Sadat for just a year, but we object to the fact that this law has been in effect for more than 14 years and that regular laws that guaranteed a detainee's rights have been canceled.

[Salah] Some people have called on the government to initiate a dialogue with the extremists. Do you support this view?

[Mashhur] Peaceful dialogue is undoubtedly the right course to end the conflict. Dialogue through firearms is not the right course. We support people who call for a dialogue so each side can listen to the views of the other and reach a conviction for the good of the country.

[Salah] Much has been said about the MB's international organization. What are the facts about this matter?

[Mashhur] The Islamic world is open, and the media covers this world. The MB's ideology and understanding of Islam and its requirements have spread to many parts of the world. Some people in various countries have been convinced of them. Whenever they have the chance to meet at conferences or seminars, they try to get acquainted with each other and exchange ideas and views for the good of the Muslims and the Islamic world and for confronting the enemies of Islam. They also share in Islamic issues like Palestine, Bosnia, Kashmir, Chechnya, and others.

[Salah] It has been said that the only disagreement between the MB in Egypt and the Islamic Front in Sudan is about al-Turabi's [leader of the National Islamic Front in Sudan] insistence on leading the MB's international organization. Is this true?

[Mashhur] This is not true.

[Salah] What is the reason for the disagreement?

[Mashhur] Before the military coup, the situation in Sudan was extremely dangerous. Garang [leader of the military rebellion in southern Sudan] was threatening to invade Khartoum. The people were alarmed. When the coup took place, the situation eased and the people regained their peace of mind. The coup leaders made considerable achievements. They purged the army, achieved self-sufficiency in sugar and grains, and improved some services. We were hoping that the military rule would change to a democratic rule based on Islamic shura. They have been trying to do that, but obstacles have emerged, such as the war in the south and difficult economic conditions. We have always offered our advice to them and have called on them to abide by the correct ways of Islam, release freedoms, hold free elections, and take into consideration the people's hardships because of the difficult economic situation.

[Salah] Reports and accusations have not ceased about the financing of the MB's activity. What is your response to that?

[Mashhur] The MB does not receive money from any side and does not subject its policy to any party. The MB depends on God and on what the Brothers give for the group's work.

[Salah] The hostility between the MB and the July revolution still exists. Can you agree with the Nasirists on certain points?

[Mashhur] Our position on the July revolution is not so much based on the harm, torture, and killing that we faced. It is based on the effects of this revolution. This revolution established a totalitarian regime, which caused this country to lose its moral values. We believe that God will judge them in the hereafter for the harm we and our kinfolk had suffered under the revolution. Our position toward the Nasirists is that we can agree with them on some issues, such as the need to release freedoms, hold free elections, and reject totalitarian rule and all its negative aspects.

[Salah] An attempt has been made to reconcile Islam and socialism. The Labor Party is perhaps an example of that. What is the MB's view?

[Mashhur] Islam is a comprehensive and complete system without a substitute because it is from God who has created us and knows what is good or bad for us. Islam calls on us to take whatever is good as long as it does not contradict God's shari'ah, but we do not support socialism and its principles. I think that the Labor Party has now adopted the Islamic dogma in full.

[Salah] Contacts have reportedly taken place between officials from the American Embassy in Cairo and a number of MB leaders. Is this true? Can you clarify this matter?

[Mashhur] No contacts have taken place between officials from the American Embassy in Cairo and MB leaders. These are rumors designed to show that the Brothers cooperate with foreign parties against the regime.

[Salah] Some people talk about contradictions in the MB group. They say that the group calls for democracy while it does not apply it internally. The proof, they say, is that the guidance bureau includes the group's shaykhs and the general guide who is more than 80 years old. The general guide still leads the group, although he is old and cannot function rationally.

[Mashhur] The Brothers apply the Islamic shura in all their activities and in choosing their officials. All this takes place in an atmosphere of love, cooperation, and appreciation.

[Salah] Finally, do you accept the gradual implementation of the shari'ah?

[Mashhur] We do not support impulsive solutions. A gradual approach is necessary to prevent instability and shocks without discrediting Islam. This is Islam's way.

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Receives UN Reply on Rwanda, Burundi

LD2005100595 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0715 GMT 20 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Tripoli, 20 May — The brother leader of the revolution [Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi] received a message from UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali in reply to the message and cable the leader had sent to him on the bloody, tragic events taking place in Rwanda and Burundi.

In his message, the UN secretary general expressed his high esteem for the brother leader's proposals, which could find a solution to the bloody, tragic events there.

The UN secretary general said that they were valuable proposals ... expressing his support for the contents of the message and cable of the brother leader of the revolution on the need for a final separation between the two fighting tribes, the Hutu and Tutsi, by means of African forces so that each tribe can settle in a state of its own as a way out of and a final solution to the whole crisis.

'Great Appreciation' From Hutu Tribe

LD2205142195 Tripoli Great Jamahiriyah Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 22 May 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The proposal presented by the brother leader of the revolution to seek a solution for the tragic and bloody events taking place in Rwanda and Burundi has received wide interest in the world and great appreciation, as seen by the number of positive reactions supporting this serious and courageous proposal. [passage omitted]

In a message sent to the brother leader of the revolution, the Hutu tribe has expressed great appreciation for the leader's efforts and full support for his proposal regarding putting an end to the events in Rwanda and Burundi. In its message to the brother leader, the Hutu tribe said that this proposal embodied full understanding and awareness of the extent of this conflict and the ability to formulate a solution which would lead to a final settlement and permanent peace that could guarantee an end to the African bloodshed and attain peace and stability in the region.

Morocco

King Meets Pakistan's Foreign Minister at OIC

BK2005120095 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1100 GMT 20 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] King Hassan II of Morocco, who is also the current chairman of OIC [Organization of the Islamic Conference], has expressed his deep anguish and indignation at the destruction of the holy shrine of Sheikh Nuruddin Wali by Indian Army personnel adding that this outrage was shared with the people of Kashmir and Pakistan not only by Muslims, but all peace-loving people of the world. The king conveyed these sentiments to Foreign Minister Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali, who called on him in Rabat on Thursday [18 May]. According to a message, the foreign minister was in Moroccan capital to attend the meeting of the OIC Contact Group on Bosnia-Herzegovina. During audience with the king, Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali delivered President Sardar Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari's letter to the king.

Government Hampered by Ongoing Drought

95AF0076B Paris JEUNE AFRIQUE in French 27 Apr 95 pp 47, 48

[Article by Bahia Amrani: "Waiting For the Rain"]

[FBIS Translated Text] *Morocco. Because of the drought, the harvest will be one of the poorest in the last 30 years. It has distorted all of the budgetary forecasts.*

The drought that continues to plague Morocco is greatly hampering government action. Forty days after it was put in place, the new Filali team is coping with major budgetary problems.

The 1995 finance bill anticipated an average agricultural year, which would have made a 4-percent growth rate possible. In the worst-case scenario, growth was not supposed to be less than 2 percent. All the forecasts were based on these figures, which were widely considered to be very low. By way of comparison, the growth rate for 1994—a year in which the rainfall and crops were exceptional—exceeded 10 percent. Now at the end of the first quarter of 1995, the harvest looks as if it will be one of the worst in the past 30 years. With the exception of the eastern region, which has recorded a 15-percent surplus, the rest of the country is reporting a shortfall between 50 and 65 percent, as compared with a normal harvest. The sporadic storms that lashed certain regions in early April may save some of the spring crops, but they will have no effect on others. According to Mohamed Kabbaj, the minister for Finance and Foreign Investment, the grain harvest should not exceed 25 million quintals, as compared with 90 million quintals last year.

Kabbaj also believes that the devaluation of certain foreign currencies has produced some business problems for Morocco. This set of economic circumstances has presented the government with a real headache: how can it achieve the objectives in its finance bill and carry out the budget when every trend is currently downward: GDP (20 percent of which is accounted for by agriculture) is declining; so are the figures for the balance of trade. On the other hand, the investment rate is rising. The cost-of-living index, which stood at 133.5 in February 1994, is currently at 142.4 (in absolute terms). Inflation increased by 2 percent in January 1995 over January 1994 and by 1.6 percent in February 1995 over the same month last year. On average for these two months, there was a 2.7-percent variation in 1994. In 1995, it is 6.7 percent. This is an alarming trend. Despite that, the government is not thinking about revising the finance bill even if, according to the minister, this could have serious socioeconomic consequences. Mohamed Kabbaj believes that balance can be maintained in the budget if the government demonstrates it is making an imaginative effort. However, the maneuvering room has shrunk, with the expenses budget already having been trimmed by the 1995 finance bill. And particularly in the areas of social [programs] and investment.

The government could increase revenues. In particular, by using two traditional methods: taxes or foreign debt (whose amount has now risen to $21 billion). The ways in which this would be carried out, he added, have not yet been defined and will need to be studied by the Bank Al-Maghrib and other commercial banks.

The effort will also need to focus on the future in order to accelerate the country's economic development in such a way that basic balances are no longer reliant on harvests. And that is something that is not foreseeable for several years.

Sudan

Government Responds to Opposition 'Threats'

MM2505093395 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 24 May 95 pp 1, 4

[Reports by 'Uthman Mirghani and Imam Muhammad Imam: "Sudanese Government: Ummah Party's Threats Do Not Worry Us"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] London — As the ultimatums from al-Ansar Movement and the Ummah Party to the Sudanese Government intensify and calls for the release of al-Sadiq al-Mahdi mount, the government has responded by saying that these threats do not worry it.

In a telephone statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in reaction to al-Ansar Movement's ultimatum to the Sudanese authorities, a responsible Sudanese source said: "I have heard many threats by some Ummah Party members, but they came to nothing."

He added: "These threats do not worry us at all because we know how limited their capabilities are and how isolated they really are from al-Ansar masses who have joined the bandwagon of the revolution."

The Sudanese Government source said that "the individuals mentioned in the so-called memorandum have no weight and do not represent al-Ansar. Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi had, in a previous statement to the Sudanese public, admitted the complicity of a group of his aides in a subversive action in cooperation with a foreign state. The whole world was witness to that statement."

The source added: "The arrest of al-Sadiq al-Mahdi was undertaken in that context. He was arrested under a law which exists in all states of the world, a law which entitles the state to investigate acts of subversion and terrorism, which some of those said to belong to al-Ansar abroad do not deny talking about in declaring their adoption of the method of bloody confrontation and sabotage. They even went further than that by signing an agreement with the rebellion movement waging a war against the state."

The source pointed out that John Garang (leader of the Sudanese People's Liberation Movement) had announced in a television interview that he, the Ummah Party, and the Unionists had agreed to take the war to the north, cause explosions in north Sudanese cities, and form a "New Sudan Brigade." [passage omitted]

Yesterday, Hasan Ahmad al-Hasan, the Ummah Party's official in charge of information, issued a statement confirming that the atmosphere was tense and renewing his party's warnings that the government actions pertaining to the arrest of al-Sadiq al-Mahdi "have pushed the country to the brink of a serious situation the gravity of which only God knew, with the regime pursuing a course it will be the first to be burned by "

He added: "Al-Ansar has overlooked the regime's provocations so as to prevent sedition and bloodshed, but these provocations reached their peak with the arrest of al-Sadiq al-Mahdi to cover up the regime's failure and incompetence. Al-Ansar is, therefore, unlikely to let the regime do what it likes."

In conclusion, the Ummah Party's information official said: "The Ummah Party renews its warning to the regime and its leaders against going too far in their actions, and it emphasizes that, with its masses and ranks and with the support of the Sudanese people and bearing in mind its just cause, it would not hesitate to set another historic scene and record of heroism and sacrifice whatever the price and however great the sacrifices." [passage omitted]

Rebel Spokesman Accuses Government of Violations

AB2405190095 London BBC World Service in English 1505 GMT 24 May 95

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Southern Sudanese rebels say the two-month cease-fire which ends next Sunday [28 May] has already been violated on a number of occasions by government forces. The cease-fire was negotiated by former U.S. President Jimmy Carter to facilitate the distribution of humanitarian relief and to carry out an immunization program. On the line to Nairobi, Robin White asked Professor David Detrand, spokesman for the South Sudan Independence Movement, SSIM, in what way the cease-fire had been broken by government forces.

[Begin recording] [Detrand] Well, some of them came out from (Moban) and attacked us in (Chot Bura), and in that area they burned 377 houses, and we know that we have killed 25 of their soldiers and captured 15 AK-47's, and our forces repelled their attack.

[White] So you claim you have beaten back the attack?

[Detrand] Yes, we have beaten back that attack coming from (Moban) area; and then again, on the 20th of May, there was another incident in (Olang), on the Sobat River, and in that incident we know that we have killed five enemy soldiers and we lost four of our own.

[White] But did you drive back that attack as well?

[Detrand] Yes, we repelled them back into the town. It is a small town along the Sobat River. And then, on the 21st of May, the NIF [National Islamic Front] also attacked us at northeast of Nasir, at a place called (?Tugi).

[White] It doesn't sound as though it has been much of a cease- fire.

[Detrand] Yes, that is quite true. To the best of our knowledge, this is the 22d violation of the cease-fire by the Sudanese, by the NIF regime and, therefore, to us we feel that the cease-fire has not been honored by 'Umar al—Bashir as he promised the person who brokered it, that was President Carter.

[White] Have you provoked government troops?

[Detrand] No, not at all. They provoked us. Whatever we did here, we did it in the act of self-defense. We have never provoked (?anybody.)

[White] So is this the total end of the cease-fire?

[Detrand] That is correct. I think Khartoum knows that the cease-fire is going to end on the 28th, that would be the coming Sunday. So I think it is trying to flex its muscles to show us that, maybe, it can just walk through; but we are going to defend ourselves [in] whatever area we control, at any cost, at any price. [end recording]

Kuwait

Cabinet Officially Withdraws Constitution Request

LD2405165895 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic
1128 GMT 24 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Kuwait, 24 May (KUNA) — The Council of Ministers today withdrew the request to the Constitutional Court to interpret Article 71 of the Constitution, without affecting the right [words indistinct] to resort to the courts in this respect.

National Assembly 'Crisis' Over

LD2405191995 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic
1540 GMT 24 May 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Kuwait, 24 May (KUNA) — Nasir al-Rawdan, second deputy prime minister and minister of finance, has stressed that with the government's decision today to withdraw the request for the Constitutional Court to interpret Article 71 of the Constitution, the crisis with the National Assembly which arose over this subject has vanished and ended.

In a commentary to KUNA here today on this matter, he emphasized: "I can say that this issue is over and that the crisis has been dispelled."

He stressed that "neither the assembly nor the government has any option except fruitful and constructive cooperation; this will achieve national development and serve the interests of Kuwait, which is held above all other considerations by all members of the legislative and executive authorities."

Al-Rawdan expressed the certainty that, after ending this "problem," a new spirit of cooperation will be activated between the two authorities which will be reflected in the achievement of numerous plans with a direct and positive return for the country and its citizens. He stressed that efforts to attain the higher interests of the country will be redoubled.

Al-Rawdan said: "Following the National Assembly session yesterday, the executive authority and members of the legislative authority expect that a new page will be opened in serious interaction and cooperation between the government and the assembly."

The assembly yesterday passed 17 ordinances and sent back five others to the specialized committees for further study after a lengthy debate, in accordance with the agreement concluded with the government last Monday [22 May] that these ordinances would be settled. They were the only ones issued during the period when parliamentary life was halted that were still pending. [passage omitted]

Tehran: Kuwait Opposes U.S. Embargo on Iran

LD2305110895 Tehran IRNA in English
1052 GMT 23 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] London, May 23, IRNA — Kuwait is reported to have no desire to break its traditional links with Iran and is opposed to President Clinton's recent unilateral embargo against the Islamic Republic. Reviewing Kuwait's foreign policy with the arrival of the amir on a state visit to Britain Tuesday, the FINANCIAL TIMES said the Persian Gulf state had long-standing trading relations with Iran and does not want to forfeit the market again it lost supporting Iraq's 1980-88 war.

It quoted one European diplomat saying that the emirate lost the Iraq market following 1991 Persian Gulf war as well as 30 percent of its own domestic market when expelling Palestinians after its liberation from Iraqi occupation. Official policy may be to view Iran as a 'friendly threat' but its merchants do not want to lose any more trade and for that reason alone Kuwait was "not in favor" of Clinton's blanket ban on Iran, he said.

The daily spoke of Kuwait's National Assembly as being a factor in shaping policy towards Iran, pointing out that some 25 percent of the country's national population were Shia Muslims, many of whom stayed behind to resist Iraq's occupation. It suggested faced with the continued menace of a predatory Iraq, simple survival remained the bottom line of the emirate's foreign policy, with the U.S. and Britain buttressing the country's sense of security.

But according to one diplomatic source quoted, Kuwait had "no intention of becoming a western stool-pigeon," having too much experience not to pay attention to other aspects of foreign policy.

It was said to be careful not to be drawn into a reliance on the west at the expense of relations with its neighbors, which included the three more powerful countries of Iran, Iraq and Saudi Arabia.

UK Banks Refuse To Reschedule Loan Repayments

MS2505105995 London THE EUROPEAN in English
25 May - 1 Jun 95 p 17

[Report by Charles Hoots: "Kuwait In $5bn Loan Talks"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Government officials in Kuwait are desperately trying to reschedule a $2.3 billion repayment on a $5.5bn syndicated loan taken out by the country following the Gulf War.

Despite claims from Kuwaiti officials that there are "more than sufficient funds" to make payment on the loan, due in July, sources say the government has so far failed to renegotiate payments. The loan was arranged for the emirate in 1991 by US investment bank JP Morgan. Other banks in the 80-member syndicate include Credit Lyonnais, Swiss Bank Corporation and Deutsche Bank.

The failure of talks comes as Kuwait's ruler, Shaykh Jabar al Ahmad al-Sabah, ends a short European tour with state visits to London and Paris. Tense relations with Iraq, a militant National Assembly directly challenging the al-Sabah family's rule, as well as economic difficulties have led to risk fears among potential foreign investors and banks.

Problems at the London-based Kuwait Investment Office [KIO], which manages a large portion of Kuwait's foreign assets, are a major factor in the financial world's sinking confidence in the country. The KIO and its Reserve Fund for Future Generations commanded the respect of financial markets around the world during the 1980s. The fund, which peaked at $100bn in 1990, has been reduced drastically.

According to sources close to the finance committee of Kuwait's National Assembly, KIO investment performance since the Gulf War in 1991 has averaged only 3.5 per cent annual growth. "The Kuwait Investment Authority [KIA]," which oversees KIO activities, has been warned that if KIO returns are not improved, the money will be taken from them and given to a bank to manage", the source claimed.

The finance committee believes KIO's performance is still "unacceptable". "We would have done better with the money in the bank," the committee member asserted. Adding to the KIO's problems, a source close to Kuwait's ruling family says the finance ministry continues to dip into the Office's dwindling assets to cover Kuwait's budget deficit, estimated at $5.6bn for the 1994-95 financial year, ending in July. "KIO funds are still being liquidated to pay the bills left over after oil revenues have been spent," said the source. "We have nothing else to pay with."

The Reserve Fund for Future Generations was used following the Iraqi invasion to fund the Kuwaiti government-in-exile, as well as arms purchases, and other costs of the offensive that liberated the country. A management reshuffle followed in 1992. While KIA officials confide that foreign assets today total $65bn, one National Assembly member contests the figure. He asserts that more than half of this is made up of "Third World assets", and that it is overstated or unrealisable. He puts the foreign-asset value at $20bn — 25bn.

An investigator for Kuwait's finance committee adds that Kuwaiti officials are having second thoughts about pursuing a UK court case against former KIO management for alleged mismanagement of investments in Spain. The case would focus on the dispersal of $300 million from KIO funds during autumn 1990. The KIA claims fraud and a cover-up by former KIO managers. The accused say the movement of funds was sanctioned by the government-in-exile.

The investigator said: "If former management is found guilty of fraud against Grupo Torras (KIO's Spanish investment vehicle), this is likely to open us up to further action for the creditors of Grupo Torras to seek repayment of funds by the KIO."

Oman

Naval Exercise Begins in Territorial Waters

*JN2405151295 Manama WAKH in Arabic
1340 GMT 24 May 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Muscat, 24 May (WAKH) — Starting today, the Omani Sultani Navy will carry out a Naval exercise called "Sea Lion" in the Omani territorial waters.

The Omani News Agency has reported that the exercise will be carried out in several stages. The purpose is to upgrade the defense capability of the fleet, and conduct practical naval communications, air landings, and combat infiltration by adopting the most advanced training methods, combat systems, and modern equipment.

Saudi Arabia

Industry Minister Lauds 'Huge' Accomplishments

*LD2305205595 Riyadh SPA in English
1942 GMT 23 May 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Jeddah, May 23, SPA — Saudi Industry and Electric Power Minister Eng. 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Zamil today described as 'huge' accomplishments realized by the Saudi industry at regional and international levels.

In an address before a special ceremony organised to celebrate completion of 50 years by Jeddah's Chamber of Commerce and Industry, al-Zamil highlighted facts and figures of the industrial growth in the kingdom, its status and its future. [Passage indistinct]

'We can not forget the efforts exerted by industrialists and businessmen in the kingdom in executing the industrial projects. Moreover, the citizen is encouraging the national industry and having full confidence in it and investing in its growth,' al-Zamil added.

He highlighted the industrial investment opportunities in the kingdom and said they are huge in volume. 'Officials, industrialists and businessmen are looking forward for more accomplishments in the future, which is bright for the Saudi industry under the leadership of Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz and the crown prince,' he said.

Al-Zamil said the kingdom's industrial accomplishments are facing several challenges in the light of GATT agreement. 'We have to work hard to benefit from this agreement and avoid its negative effects. It depends on our abilities and competitive skills in the international markets. It also depends on our abilities to support our national products inside the domestic market,' he added.

Al-Zamil touched upon the importance of the industrial exports in the upcoming stage. He underlined the importance of the quality of the national products with their reasonable pricing. 'We have to concentrate on products that depend on petroleum and the natural gas. We have to be fully informed of the industrial marketing strategies. We have to benefit from the bilateral trade agreements. We have to opt for barter trade exchanges, which are considered as encouraging tools for exports with the countries that have difficulties to pay in cash,' al-Zamil said.

He called on the industrial sector in particular and the private sector in general, to work out jointly to increase the volume of national industrial products with fine quality and encourage employment of the national cadres in industry as well as enhance the industrial exports and increase the national industry's competitive potential at the international level.

Al-Zamil proposed an increase in the existing capital of industrial investment companies and formation of new joint stock companies for the sake of industrial investments as well as transfer of private industrial companies into the joint stock companies.

He also proposed for the establishment of a new company for industrial exports and formation of a new investment company for industrial services.

Al-Zamil highlighted the kingdom's industrial gains during the past years. The number of productive factories in the kingdom until 30/09/1415 H [12 February 1995] totaled 2,340 factories with the capital investment exceeding SR [Saudi Riyals] 151 billion, he said.

The number of joint ventures until the end of 1414 H reached 338 factories, involving a capital investment of SR 86.4 billion. The number of industrial ventures, which benefited from the Saudi Industrial Development Fund reached 1,216 projects with an investment of SR 22 billion until the end of the financial year 1412-1413 H.

Al-Zamil said the sale of Saudi industrial products reached an amount of SR 68 billion in 1414 H. This does not include petroleum products, he added. Al-Zamil also dealt with Sabic's products and said the corporation's production accounted for 21 million tons of petrochemicals, fertilisers, plastics material, gases and minerals in the year 1994.

The production of cement in the kingdom increased to 17 million tons in 1993, he said. The production of electrical cables and wires in the kingdom reached 120,000 tons in 1994, he added. The production of carpets in the kingdom totaled 210 million square meters in 1994, al-Zamil said.

During the last ten years, he said the Saudi exports increased from SR 1.2 billion in 1984 to SR 15.4 billion in 1994. The Saudi exports now reach more than 90 countries in the world, he added.

Opposition: Minister's Firing Due to Regime Factions

NC2405162695 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Islamic Revolution in Arabic 1430 GMT 24 May 95

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] In a sudden decision, tyrant Saddam Husayn has appointed a new interior minister in place of his half-brother, Watban Ibrahim, who was appointed by the tyrant as his adviser. This post is regarded as more of an honorary one. The new minister is Muhammad Zimam 'Abd-al-Razzaq, a protege of the regime's security and intelligence services.

The new decision came amid the violent security crisis in Iraq and the increasing popular dissatisfaction, which has reached its limits, particularly as the regime's henchmen have persisted with their policies of unwarranted repression, corruption, immoral practices, and attacks on the masses. These policies have increased the masses' hatred for the Saddamist authority, particularly the Interior Ministry, which supposedly has the task of putting an end to corruption, administrative laxity, thefts, bribes, and increased crime. Thus Saddam took this step as a caesarean operation to keep himself beyond reproach because Watban, his half-brother, was regarded as his protege.

If we put the security factor aside, there is another explanation for Watban's dismissal from the Interior Ministry. This factor is explained by the struggle between the regime's two wings, which has become a unique and evident phenomenon. This struggle and competition is raging between the wing of the Ibrahim family — Barzan, Watban, and Sab'awi — and the wing of the al-Majid family, which is led by 'Ali Hasan al-Majid and Husayn Kamil. The struggle between these two wings is over who will get the lion's share of authority and the most economic and trade gains.

This struggle began in the mid-1980s, specifically when the tyrant decided to marry his daughter off to Husayn Kamil, who was then a member of the special protection unit. This angered Barzan, as noted by Ahmad Mazhur, the former translator in the Iraqi Embassy in Geneva who was close to Barzan, in his recently published memoirs.

Husayn Kamil's speedy rise to high office could not happen unchecked and without arousing jealous members of the ruling family. This in fact stoked the struggle between these two wings and increased the imbalance in the Saddamist rule.

It is natural for these differences to lead to plots and even assassinations. It appears that Watban's fall in these critical times has something to do with the al-Majid family's success yet again in upsetting the balance within the Ibrahim family.

There is another explanation that cannot be ruled out: Ibrahim Watban has embarked on a plan to attain power, or at least to help a family member replace Saddam Husayn, in an attempt to maintain authority within this family after tyrant Saddam rejected resignation and continued to cling to power, ignoring all the fears, not only about his existence but also about that of the family, particularly as there is a consensus within the family to keep power in its hands at any price, even at the cost of having Saddam Husayn step down to lift the UN sanctions and forestall any possible military coup targeting the entire ruling family.

Dismissal Said To Strengthen Qusayy Camp

MM2405134095 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 24 May 95 pp 1, 6

[Report by Kamran Qurrah Daghi: "Iraq: Interior Minister Relieved of His Post Because of Disagreement With 'Udayy"]

[FBIS Translated Text] London — It has been officially announced in Baghdad that President Saddam Husayn has relieved his half brother, Watban Ibrahim al-Tikriti, of his post as interior minister, appointing Muhammad Zimam 'Abd-al-Razzaq as his successor. The Iraqi News Agency, which broadcast the news, did not specify the reason for this change. However, it said that Watban has been appointed adviser to the president with the rank of minister.

Well-informed Iraqi sources have said that the reason for relieving Watban of his post is the worsening disagreements between him and the Iraqi president's son, 'Udayy. The sources pointed out that Saddam's decision means that he took 'Udayy's side. He had summoned them several times but failed to persuade them to settle their differences. The sources expect 'Abd-al-Razzaq to hold the post temporarily until a suitable successor is found in order to keep this important ministry in the ruling family's hands.

Furthermore, Watban's dismissal is bound to further reinforce the position of Qusayy, the president's second son, who is in charge of all security and intelligence organs in the country. The sources added that the disagreement between the president's son and his uncle, Watban, is profound and includes the way the Interior Ministry and security services in general are run. The sources went on to say that the 'Udayy-Qusayy camp also includes Defense Minister 'Ali Hasan al-Majid, the president's cousin; and Military Industries Minister Husayn Kamil, the president's son-in-law. Two of the president's three half brothers continue to hold important posts: Sab'awi Ibrahim al-Tikriti, director of public security; and Barzan Ibrahim al-Tikriti, Iraq's representative to the United Nations in Geneva and Saddam's "personal envoy."

The sources also said that the disagreement between 'Udayy and Watban had worsened badly, forcing the Iraqi president to relieve Watban of his post following an incident which occurred recently. Watban personally arrested a number of 'Udayy's "friends" and jailed them in the Interior Ministry building. 'Udayy personally went to the ministry and released his friends despite his uncle's objections.

It is worth mentioning that the Unified Iraqi National Congress announced a few days ago that an attempt took place in the middle of this month to assassinate Watban, and that shots were fired on his car while returning to his house. However, the same sources believe that the incident was either the work of 'Udayy's group or that it did not take place at all, but that the group "circulated rumors" about it in preparation for removing him [Watban], perhaps on the pretext that security "is so disrupted in the capital that the interior minister can no longer protect himself."

The sources said that the new interior minister is a Sunni [as published; AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT states that he is a Shiite] belonging to the al-Sa'dun family in al-Nasiriyah in southern Iraq, and that he is a member of the regional leadership of the ruling Ba'th Party. The sources pointed out that his appointment in this position is a "reward" for him, as "he did well" as regards suppressing the uprising of the Shiite inhabitants in the south in March 1991.

Events Boost Sons' Influence

MM2405132995 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 24 May 95 pp 1, 4

[Unattributed report: "Saddam Dismisses His Brother in Course of Liquidation of al-Hasan Wing"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Amman, London, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT — Iraqi President Saddam Husayn has dismissed his half brother Watban Ibrahim al-Hasan from the post of interior minister and appointed Muhammad Zimam 'Abd-al-Razzaq, a Shiite, in his place. According to informed Iraqi sources, the decision, issued last night, is part of the Iraqi president's plan to liquidate what is known as the "al-Hasan wing" which also includes Barzan Ibrahim al-Hasan, former chief of intelligence and Iraqi representative at the UN's European headquarters in Geneva; and Sab'awi Ibrahim al-Hasan, the public security director, both of whom are also half brothers of the Iraqi president. The Iraqi News Agency said that Watban has been appointed adviser to Saddam. Barzan was appointed political adviser last February.

The Iraqi president had asked Watban some time ago to Remain at home and not Report to work at the Interior Ministry which was then under the supervision of 'Udayy, Saddam's eldest son. There were reports two months ago about an argument during which gun shots were fired between 'Udayy and three sons of Adham Ibrahim al-Hasan, the eldest brother of the deposed interior minister.

'Abd-al-Razzaq hails from the city of al-Nasiriyah in southern Iraq and is a leading member of the ruling Ba'th Party. He had occupied several administrative posts including that of governor of Tikrit. Informed Iraqi observers interpret the choice of 'Abd-al-Razzaq for that post as a move with two aims. The first is to have a minister without any great influence in the government structure or in the family feud, someone who can be easily influenced by the president's sons, unlike the former minister who frequently had open quarrels with Defense Minister 'Ali Hasan al-Majid and Husayn Kamil, industry and military industrialization minister, not to mention his known quarrels with 'Udayy. The second point is that the Iraqi president might use that minister in any plans he intends to carry out against people in the southern areas of Iraq.

In another development, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in London has received a statement from the Turkish Embassy in Riyadh denying media reports about a new Turkish military operation in northern Iraq. The statement said: There are absolutely no Turkish troops on Iraqi territory.

Israeli 'Spy' Satellite Launch Called 'New Threat'

JN2405092995 Baghdad INA in English 0830 GMT 24 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baghdad, May 24, INA — An Iraqi newspaper has described the aggressive purposes of the Israeli invasion of the Arab airspace through launching the spy satellite as a new threat to the Arabs and their patriotic and national sovereignty.

AL-THAWRAH daily, mouthpiece of the Arab Ba'th Socialist Party, said in its today article that the new challenge was designed to establish a military and economic regional power in the Arab homeland represented in Israel.

Israel believes that its acquisition of the space technique will offer best ways for achieving its political and economic purposes at the regional and international levels and it sees that the use of the spy satellites offers the reconnaissance of vast areas during a very short time, the paper said.

It warned against gravity of Israel possession of this spy satellite, especially this satellite is capable to constantly channel the long-range Israeli missiles and the warplanes and it will rectify their route.

The paper regarded the technical expansion of Israel as a fresh solution to sustain morale of the Zionist settlers with the aim of minimizing the counter migration from Israel because of their fears of the national Arab role carried out by Arab organizations like Hamas [the Islamic Resistance Movement] and the Islamic Jihad that planted panic in the ranks of the Zionists.

The paper concluded by confirming that if the U.S. had not supported the Israeli programs, Israel would have not acquired the technical and scientific superiority and technical secrets to use them against the Arabs at present and in future.

Paper Praises MIO-Designed Machines in Factories

JN2405183195 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 14 May 95 p 4

[FBIS Translated Text] Military Industrialization Organization [MIO] teams in Umm al-Ma'arik Enterprise have succeeded in designing and making sophisticated machines for the mechanical section of the Great Iraqi Factory by relying on national expertise and local materials.

The director of the enterprise's programmed screening machines project has said the teams have produced machines with high specifications for the production of sections and equipment which serve the agricultural and industrial sectors such as molds, engines, tractor and truck parts, household appliances such as lamps and sewing machines, and tire molds. He added that these machines consist of heavy duty parts, or castings, such as shafts, slides, and benches. Complex models of these parts have been made in addition to mechanical presses with a capacity of 100 tonnes, he said. He also pointed out that the teams have designed and made electronic control systems in cooperation and coordination with the State al-Zawra' Enterprise, a MIO unit.

The director said that MIO teams at al-Amin Center for Electornic Designs, a unit of al-'Izz Enterprise for Electronic Industries, have succeeded in designing and making electronic control systems for several industrial machines which have been installed in the Great Iraqi Factory. He added that the teams made electronic control units for cutting machines which use wire, drill, or spark and that these units are based on 100 percent Iraqi designs. These high technology machines were formerly monopolized by international firms, he said. He added that these machines are used in the production of highly complex and precise molds which cannot be made by means of ordinary turning tools.

Markets, Rising Price of Dollar Discussed

95LH0124A Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 15 Mar 95 p 5

[Article: "Face to Face: How Can Iraqi Market Be Freed of Shackles' of Rising Dollar Exchange Rates; Dr. Humam al-Shamma': I Absolve Merchants and Currency Dealers; Taha Yasin Ali: Incomes Are Incompatible With Inflation Rates; Reducing Poor Distribution of Income; Ideas for Postblockade Phase; Adopting Dual-Instruments Policy"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign exchange finances present a significant part of the Iraqi national consumption. Before the blockade, oil revenues financed both public and private consumption, as well as investment. Now, the oil-less Iraqi economy does not produce the equivalent of its consumption. Therefore, the disparity between domestic consumption volume and domestic product under the blockade conditions is covered by foreign exchange, which becomes more meager the longer the blockade goes on.

The group of people with limited income, who contributed to building the modern Iraq with sweat and who have defended it with blood, is the group victimized most by this condition. The growth of this group's income has absolutely not been compatible with the successive inflation leaps. The increased subsidies given to these people to augment their incomes have been used as a pretext for rapid price hikes that devoured the increases even before they were received by this segment of people, which controls most vital junctures of the government and society. Moreover, the widening gap between the rich and those with limited income is spreading hatred and wrath among society's members.

We have put Dr. Humam al-Shamma', a fiscal economy professor at the Administration and Economy College of Baghdad University, and Taha Yasin Ali, a writer on economic affairs, face to face with the questions of AL-'UBUR [AL- JUMHURIYAH Economic Supplement], without letting either know that the two of them were going to engage in "dialogue" on this page. We asked them about the phenomenon of the rising dollar exchange rate and about the fear some people have in this regard. We asked them if merchants are behind this game. We asked them about the basis for improving the economic condition; about the apprehension connected with the continued decline in the dinar's exchange rate; and about their opinion on creating a bank to deal with hard currency as a solution to alleviate the sharp rise in the dollar exchange rate. We also asked them about the opinion that advocates curtailing the demand for dollars by reducing the import of unessential commodities, by stopping the state agencies' purchase of dollars, and by preventing production establishments from selling their products for dollars. We asked them about how to view the post-blockade phase and if economists and specialists have studies in this regard. We also asked about the Iraqi ordinary citizen's talk about the so-called "lifting of zeros." Dr. al-Shamma' and writer Taha Yasin Ali expressed daring opinions, which we will present in this face-to-face interview. The supplement [AL-'UBUR] emphasizes that publishing these opinions does not mean it adopts them. It is just an exchange of opinions.

Al-Shamma': There is no reason to fear a phenomenon whose causes we know in advance, namely the economic blockade. I wish to stress that the only cause is the blockade. I disagree with the opinion that says that merchants or foreign exchange dealers are behind this rise in the dollar exchange rate. I am not saying this in defense of this segment. It is normal that the price of a commodity in short supply will rise. Let us view the dollar as a commodity here. It is a means to secure a commodity. We don't expect a commodity owner to give it up for a low price when a problem exists. Moreover, the value of the national currency versus foreign exchange is not the main problem. There are currencies whose basic unit has a low value, such as the Italian lira. But this condition does not reflect an unhealthy phenomenon since it reflects a currency phenomenon.

Taha Yasin: Since 1990, we haven't been able to deal a strategic blow to the dollar exchange rate, which has been rising steadily. The dollar's tactical retreat at times does not last long and is subsequently, and promptly, exploited for sharp price hikes. This condition has made the dollar very attractive as an investment. Thus, it has been diverted from its conventional function as a currency tool for the import of essential requirements into a savings vessel for whomever possesses a cash surplus. As a result, demand for the dollar has risen immensely. Because of the meager and scarce dollar resources that we possess, the dollar exchange rate has been inflated many times beyond its real value. This trend has been bolstered by the scarcity and inefficiency of the legal national investment alternatives. Joint-stock companies have not been able to absorb the liquidity in reasonable investments. Our national banks have not been able to overcome their red tape and their conventional view of affairs and to devise and offer attractive investment models befitting the inflationary conditions. Even the Baghdad Securities Market, which could be an excellent national investment outlet, has—because of intrinsic failure—suffered setbacks that have caused investors to flee it. The flight has, regrettably, always been to the one outlet that has remained secure, namely the "accursed green [dollar]."

Al-Shamma': The basis for an improved economic situation is the living standard of the common people in Iraq. Perhaps an important part of this issue lies in the great income disparity. This, too, is normal under the canopy of inflation. It is my assessment that the solution to the standard-of-living problem does not lie in dealing with the dollar phenomenon with various administrative steps but with economic steps that seek to curtail the worsening income distribution as much as possible. Specifically, I find that the wage policy constitutes the main flaw that causes the living standard to deteriorate. At a time when free incomes have been increasing, wages have remained unchanged, and their real value has declined several times. It is normal that the state would be apprehensive of big salary increases, considering their new inflationary ramifications.

Taha Yasin: If, as a partial and temporary solution, we want to curtail the rising dollar exchange rate, then we must cause the dollar to lose its attraction and its investment advantages. We should do so be developing and presenting rewarding national models and alternatives that we control with our will. We can issue gold bonds, or even dollar bonds, whose prices are tied to gold and to the dollar exchange rate, both upward and downward. We can give these bonds numerous marketing advantages and set for them a rewarding annual interest rate of their own kind so as to promote their acquisition and circulation. This will turn investors away from the dollar and will cause the dollar to enter into a cycle of price decreases that let the air out of its inflation and that restore to it its real price and value versus the Iraqi dinar. But, if we wish to deal with the issue comprehensively and to aid the victims, then we can do this by adopting a policy with dual monetary instruments. What I mean is that we can issue a new currency that is parallel to, not a substitute to, the current currency and that is of high and guaranteed value. Its cover can be our immense oil store, meaning that this currency will be fit for the purchase of Iraqi oil any time the purchase of this oil is permitted. Thus, we will have employed our hidden resources to bolster our present phase and our steadfastness.

Taha Yasin Ali: An important guarantee to avoid the emergence of inflationary pressures [presumably on the new currency] lies in our calculating in advance what part of the new currency we will be able to recover, as it lies in our preparing the broadest marketing outlets for this currency with all the available means. We can set our issue within the limits of 150 percent of the recovery potential, and we can market within the limits of this equation. Under the umbrella of central control and a high degree of rationing, and if this currency is not made easily accessible at times of crises, then the new currency will not be exposed to inflationary pressures. Use of the new currency can be confined to the purchase of fuel and the payment of electricity, water, and telephone bills. A reasonable percentage of government products can be set aside for sale with the new high-value currency. The sale and lease of state-owned lands and buildings can also be confined to this currency. We can organize auctions to sell a lot of our unnecessary government installations with the new currency.

Al-Shamma': The dollar is almost standing still. What is decreasing is the dinar's purchasing power. The number of Iraqi currency units countering the dollar supply available in the market, which is meager, is increasing. Because it is meager, a currency bank or the Central Bank itself cannot stop the declining dinar exchange rate. This [new currency] solution can be useful in a nonblockade situation. But it is impractical and illogical for the Central Bank to purchase dollars from the market and to resell them at a stable price. This step in itself, if executed, will intensify inflation.

Taha Yasin Ali: We do not need to set up such a bank with such a big name. The government took notice of this issue at a previous time and permitted branches of al-Rafidayn and al- Rashid Banks to buy and sell foreign exchange within the prices and givens of the collateral market. The government took this step so as to establish state control over foreign exchange prices and to prevent the emergence of a black market by making legal outlets available for currency transactions.

Al-Shamma': Opinions advocating curtailment of the dollar demand were applied practically in the preceding period. These opinions are of three kinds: The first calls for identifying and restricting the commodities that may be imported and circulated. The government did apply a list of commodities that were permitted to be circulated in the market. This measure is beneficial, but it entails numerous negatives, including curtailment of the area of permitted economic activity, promotion of an underground commerce, and creation of market instability. However, this measure did not produce the expected outcome. The second type of opinions calls for prohibiting state agencies from purchasing dollars. This measure cannot be absolute. It is better to determine the work priority of state agencies. We should list the agencies whose work requirements must be secured, dividing them into categories according to priorities determined on a political and economic basis. Agencies not receiving priority according to a descending priority list should be given limited appropriations in the state budget, depending on the degree by which their activity is needed. When such a step is taken, these agencies cannot purchase foreign exchange from the market automatically due to lack of appropriations.

The third type of opinion calls for preventing government agencies from selling their products for foreign exchange. This is not an important issue. What is important is that the agencies be able to sell their products at an economic price that enables them to continue to produce. If they sell for local currency, they will be then forced to purchase and secure their imported requirements with foreign exchange, unless an agency is not considered important according to the priority list and to the criteria we have just mentioned.

There have been experiences in numerous countries that suffered from excessive inflation under extraordinary circumstances. By the time those circumstances lapsed, economic thinking had devised successful solutions to deal with monetary inflation. We in Iraq are faced with the phenomenon of monetary inflation. This phenomenon is easy to deal with when foreign exchange becomes available. When this happens, traces of the monetary inflation phenomenon can be eliminated in a very short time. The majority of countries that experienced such circumstances adopted the approach of issuing a currency with a high purchasing power equaling several times or dozens, hundreds, or thousands of times the value of the old currency. Subsequently, the phenomenon of monetary inflation disappeared in a very short time. We cannot determine what methods the government will adopt in the postblockade phase to deal with the monetary phenomenon. Whatever the method, the problem will disappear as soon as oil revenues start flowing into Iraq at a large scale.

Taha Yasin Ali: To reduce the demand for dollars will help bring down dollar prices, even though the problem does not lie in the ordinary need for dollars but in the transformation of the dollar into an instrument of speculation and investment. The government has taken this fact into account and has reduced the import of unessential goods. There is also a decree prohibiting government agencies from purchasing dollars from the domestic market. Moreover, his excellency, the leader president, has already instructed that the sale of state products in dollars be prohibited and that they be sold in Iraqi dinars only.

Al-Shamma': Assuming that the government resorts to the approach of "lifting the zeros," the purchasing power of the new currency unit or the high dollar content of this currency will not affect the real value of the old currency units owned by the citizen. What is important is not the volume of the paper currency but what the currency unit can buy. What difference does it make to the citizen if he, for example, buys a car for five million dinars of the old currency or 5,000 dinars of the new currency? This is what lifting the zeros means, i.e. eliminating the inflationary swelling and restoring normalcy.

However, we have oversimplified matters so they can be better understood. There are numerous fiscal, monetary, commercial, and administrative measures that must accompany this approach to dealing with the monetary inflation phenomenon.

Taha Yasin Ali: In my opinion, this possibility is imaginary and inapplicable because it entails numerous legal and contractual problems and because it will lead us to complex economic and social labyrinths. For example, what would be the status of debts among citizens? What about cash deposits in banks at various times? What about all and new contracts and obligations between the citizens themselves and between citizens and the government? With such a possibility, we will be faced with millions of problems and of special cases, each of which will require a special law or legislation. Therefore, I exclude this solution. What is closer to the logical is the possibility of adopting dual monetary instruments because they spare us problems and they don't harm anybody. Rather, they aid those who merit assistance. In accordance with these instruments, transactions concluded in the existing currency will remain unchanged and transactions concluded in the future will continue.

Syria Reportedly Drops Demand for Geographic Parity

TA2505064795 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0405 GMT 25 May 95

[Report by political correspondent Shlomo Raz]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] A bridge of words that the Americans have succeeded in laying over a substantive gap — this is how a senior political source explained the development that, in practice, thaws the freeze in the talks with Syria that has been in effect since December 1994, when Chiefs of Staff Baraq and al-Shihabi last met. Jerusalem is being careful to avoid lofty language this morning, but it is certainly pleased with the fact that, in practice, Syria has accepted the Israeli stand and is resuming the negotiations on the basis of balance [izun] and reciprocity but without unequivocally demanding that geographic parity be maintained in the security arrangements or, in other words, that every inch Syria demilitarizes be matched by an Israeli inch on the other side. This demand may still be raised, but it is believed in Israel that, in practice, it is disappearing from the list of Syria's ultimatums. [passage omitted]

[In an earlier report on the same newscast, Arye Golan reports from Washington that Professor Itamar Rabinovich, Israel's ambassador to the United States, has said "that the agreement regarding the understandings pertaining to the discussion of the security arrangements between Israel and Syria, attained after many months of work, is an important development." In a recorded passage, Rabinovich says: "This is not yet the breakthrough with a capital B in the Israeli-Syrian negotiations, but this is certainly progress or an achievement in the negotiations, and in this respect it is a very important development."]

Rabin on Resumption of Talks

TA2505065095 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0405 GMT 25 May 95

[Telephone interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin by Hayim Zissowitz and political correspondent Shlomo Raz; place not given — live]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Zissowitz] Has Syria explicitly announced that it is willing to demilitarize a larger part of its territory than that which Israel will demilitarize?

[Rabin] That is not accurate. The problem was that Syria demanded that the principle of equality in the security arrangements apply to all areas, with an overall view of the security arrangements as a means of preventing skirmishes, which, in fact, we have not had along our border with the Syrians on the Golan Heights for 19 years. The main problem, however, is preventing a possible sudden strike after a peace treaty is signed. This is the central issue that is of concern to both parties, at least formally; naturally, we are particularly concerned about this. The issue was the degree to which reciprocity and equality apply to the geographic aspect. Our stand on this matter was clear: There is no room for equality and reciprocity in this area. The Syrians demanded that this be established as a principle. We were not ready to accept this. We even suggested that the issues be discussed directly, without predetermining the definitions. Syria did not accept this. In the agreed framework that exists today, each party may raise its stand on this issue.

[Zissowitz] Has Israel notified Syria of the depth of the withdrawal it is prepared to carry out on the Golan?

[Rabin] I wish to add: There are four components on which agreement must be reached or else it will be impossible to secure a peace treaty. The first is the peace border: There is no agreement between Israel and Syria on this issue. The second is the duration of the withdrawal — that is, the number of years that will be required to execute the withdrawal to that same peace border on which we have not agreed yet. The third component is, naturally, our demand — similar to the demand we made in the negotiations with Egypt, which will naturally be adapted in scale to the Golan Heights — that a very symbolic withdrawal be accompanied by at least a three-year test of normalization. When I say normalization, I mean embassies and borders open to persons and goods. In other words, normalization must be tested for a period of several years to ascertain that peace is being realized in no uncertain terms. The fourth issue is the introduction of security arrangements that will indeed provide security in a reality of peace.

Each of these issues incorporates many additional issues, such as demilitarization, thinning out of forces, early warnings, and the method of supervising the military appendix of the peace agreement in a way similar to the multinational force's observation of the agreement in the Sinai. We have not yet reached agreement on any of these issues. Nevertheless, the important thing is the very resumption of the negotiations. Much work is still needed, however, and there is a need to bridge wide gaps between the Israeli and Syrian stands. This will require patience and perseverance, as well as insistence on those things in which we believe.

[Raz] Mr. Rabin, beyond patience and perseverance, can you say today that the negotiations between Israel and Syria will not blow up again or enter a deep freeze, as happened before? Is the track absolutely clear, or can the whole issue still explode?

[Rabin] I do not want to talk about explosions. There are differences over the main components of the issues, and unless agreement is reached on these, it will be impossible to secure a peace treaty. I would not want to make prophecies. We want to attain peace, but not under any condition or at all cost.

[Raz] Can you set a timetable for the attainment of the agreement?

[Rabin] I could set a timetable. At this time, as the Americans reported, we will discuss a single issue: the security arrangements. As is known, we are not holding a bilateral dialogue between the Israelis and Syrians alone. The Syrians have and are demanding that the Americans be present. We appreciate and thank the United States for its willingness to help in this. I believe, however, that making predictions on timetables would be premature.

[Zissowitz] Will an Israeli presence on the Golan be maintained in any event, even after the withdrawal? Is Israel insisting on this?

[Rabin] I will not go into the details or discuss issues on which the differences are still wide. It is worth remembering — and I heard this with regret — that Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' claimed that the Likud chairman dropped some heavy hints suggesting to him that the Syrians wait until the Likud comes to power in Israel. I believe that this, which al-Shar' referred to publicly and Syrian officials brought up in private discussions with U.S. elements, among others, obviously caused a delay in the Syrian decision to make progress toward peace with us and made it more difficult.

[Zissowitz] On the other hand, the remarks by Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres on Israel's willingness to withdraw to the international border must have facilitated the Syrian decision.

[Rabin] Anything is possible, but I want you to remember that the Israeli foreign minister was citing an Israeli Government decision that was made in 1967 and then revoked by the same government, and he added nothing to it.

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 0500 GMT on 25 May carries a related live telephone interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin in which anchor Mikhal Gazit says: "The domestic front against you from the direction of the Golan settlers is heating up and intensifying. They are again warning that they will escalate the struggle against the agreement and remove you from power before you remove them from the Golan." Rabin responds: "I understand that there is a debate, which is legitimate. I only wish to remind the Israeli public that I, as prime minister, announced in the past and reiterate that if the agreement leads to a significant withdrawal — without determining its territorial scope at this time — it will be presented to the people, who will decide through a referendum. In other words, if and when we secure a peace treaty that satisfies the government, the government will present it to the people, and the people will decide whether they are for or against it."]

Rabin: IDF Redeployment To Be Executed in 2 Stages

TA2405102695 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 24 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin told the leaders of Meretz that the IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] redeployment in the territories will be executed in two stages: The first will take place prior to the elections to the Palestinian autonomy council and the second after the elections. The prime minister added that he would like to wrap up the interim agreement with the Palestinians at the quickest pace possible without taking any security risks.

Mr. Rabin noted that progress has been made in the talks about the elections, and that procedural and organizational issues are being discussed at the moment. The prime minister went on to say that if the agreement with the Palestinians is signed in early July there will be time to redeploy the IDF in the territories in the fall; that is, in the October-November time frame.

Our correspondent Yo'el Nir points out that Meretz's Knesset members and cabinet ministers did not pose any ultimatum to the prime minister.

Peres Denies Peace Process 'Fragile'

LD2505111495 Paris Europe No. 1 Radio in French 0540 GMT 25 May 95

[Studio interview with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres by announcer Franz-Olivier Giesbert — live]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Giesbert] Good morning, Shim'on Peres.

[Peres] Good morning. [passage omitted]

[Giesbert] Shim'on Peres, you have been fighting for peace for a long time. You said in 1980: There is no defense against missiles and nuclear weapons; the only way to guarantee Israel's security is to achieve peace. You have now achieved peace. Is it not fragile at present?

[Peres] Not at all. Fragility is always [reported] in the press, but there is always a difference between reality and publications. There are problems, quite obviously. There is always a difference between dreams and reality. The thing about dreams is that people are asleep. The thing about reality is that it is tangible, it exists.

[Giesbert] Do you feel that you are being understood in Israel?

[Peres] No, not by everyone.

[Giesbert] Does this mean that not everyone supports peace?

[Peres] I think that a majority of people do. There is also a very large minority...[pauses] Because prejudice, memories, habit and yesterday's false demands [as heard] are very powerful, very powerful indeed. It is more difficult to divorce the things one knows than to espouse the things one needs to do.

[Giesbert] The problems are not on your side only, there are also problems on the side of the Arab world. Do you feel that Yasir 'Arafat is up to his historic mission, that he will be able to face up to the rising tide of fundamentalism?

[Peres] At the end of the day, I think Yasir 'Arafat's choice is going to prevail among Palestinians and the Arab world. Allow me to say the following: Everybody has told me: You are rather naive, sir, rather innocent, you do not know the Palestinian world, you think that 'Arafat is going to remain a man who guides the Palestinian world, but all Palestinians are against him.

We must see things as they are. After all, in Israel, we have one million Arabs among us — Palestinians. [Word indistinct] have been citizens of our country for 47 years, during the war, during extremely difficult periods. In spite of that, it must be said that the rapport between the Palestinian minority in our country and ourselves is not bad at all. Then there are two or three millions Palestinians in Jordan. With them too, the rapport is not bad.

This is the first time that the Palestinians who are in the territories are divided, that is, this is the first time that, among Palestinians in the territories, there is a trend toward a dialogue for peace. This is the great change. It is true that there remains a very strong force against peace, but there is a force for peace for the first time.

[Giesbert] The Middle East is threatened by fundamentalism — Muslim fundamentalism and Jewish fundamentalism. How can one fight fundamentalism now?

[Peres] First of all, the Middle East is threatened by [word indistinct] trends: fundamentalism on the one hand, and the 21st century on the other. There is also a world which is totally modern.

[Giesbert] Internet computers are arriving.

[Peres] Undoubtedly. I think we — and the Arab world too — are going to find that the real source of wealth is not the land and it is not the size of your people: it is always the intellectual offer made by sciences, technology, information, and computer science. There are neither territories nor equipment nor nationalism. Everything is open, and at the end of the day I think that today's political landscape is going to be replaced by a completely different political leadership [preceding word spoken in English]. The current forces are already the forces of the past.

[Giesbert] Shim'on Peres, at the end of the day, don't you feel that Arabs and Jews belong to the same people?

[Peres] Do you know that, according to our tradition, the first man and the first woman were not Jewish at all — neither Adam nor Eve? Abraham was the father of us all. I have told a few Arab friends that, if Abraham is our father, then we must all become brothers because it is impossible to behave as different families when you have the same father.

[Giesbert] Shim'on Peres, I shall give the title of your book again: "The Fight for Peace", a fascinating history book and an impressive account of your life. Thank you, have a nice day.

[Peres] Thank you very much.

Sarid on Palestinian State, Moves With Syria

TA2405165095 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1505 GMT 24 May 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Meretz Council is currently in session. Minister Yosi Sarid said there that elections in the territories will be held in a several months and, in practice, a Palestinian state will be established there. The minister also announced that very positive developments in the negotiations with the Syrians are expected very soon. Sarid was speaking to our correspondent Pe'erli Shahar during the Meretz Council session in Ramat Ef'al:

[Begin recording] [Shahar] The Meretz Council is in session to decide on the method of electing the party's Knesset candidates for the next elections. The session is held against the backdrop of the meeting Meretz ministers and senior members held with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin this morning.

Minister Yosi Sarid says elections in the territories will be held in a few months.

[Sarid] It is absolutely clear that we are heading toward elections in the territories, combined with an

IDF [Israel Defense Forces] redeployment, in the near future, in several months. This will, in practice, set up a Palestinian state. This is what Meretz wanted and this is what Meretz will get. From this point of view, I can say that we are very pleased with our share. There ne6er was a political movement in Israel that better implemented its political platform than we have. In colloquial Hebrew, we can say that we scored big. All the rest are negligible issues. Time causes them and time lets them go by, and who cares about them, anyway.

This is one thing, and I will say another: There will be positive development on the Syrian front very soon, and we will see our efforts yielding fruit, as we had before. [passage omitted] [end recording]

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1600 GMT on 24 May adds: "Meretz Minister Shulamit Aloni said today that if no agreement with the PLO is made in the coming month and the steps required for elections in the territories are not taken, Meretz will have no justification to stay in the government. She was speaking to our correspondent Pe'erli Shahar."]

Ministry Approves Building Project in Jerusalem

TA2405135795 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 24 May 95 p 1

[Report by Herb Keinon]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A day after the government shelved its expropriation plans in the capital, the Interior Ministry's Jerusalem district planning committee approved the construction of the Har Homa project in southeastern Jerusalem.

The project, to eventually include around 6,500 housing units, is to be built on some 1,850 dunams of land expropriated four years ago from mostly Jewish owners.

The ministry spokeswoman said this project has nothing to do with the planned expropriations that were suspended on Monday.

The spokesman said the purpose of the project, which elicited sharp international criticism when it was first announced, is to relieve housing problems in the city.

The project has already been approved by the city's planning committee. The High Court of Justice also rejected petitions to stop the project.

The district planning committee yesterday also approved a housing project for Sur Bahir, near East Talpiyot, which will add an additional 1,500 housing units to the village.

The purpose of this project, the ministry spokeswoman said, is to relieve the housing shortage for Jerusalem's Arabs. The committee members said they hoped this project would put an end to illegal construction in the area.

Russia's Posuvalyuk Arrives, Meets With Officials

On Iran's Military Nuclear Program

TA2405104695 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 24 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Viktor Posuvalyuk told Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin that the Russians would go ahead with the sale of the nuclear reactor to Iran. According to him, however, it resembles the reactor the Americans are selling to North Korea. Nevertheless, the visitor stressed, Russia will abstain from enhancing Iran's military nuclear capability in any way.

The Russian deputy foreign minister arrived in Israel this morning and conferred with the prime minister. He will meet the foreign minister and President 'Ezer Weizman this afternoon. Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that in his meeting with the prime minister, Posuvalyuk congratulated Mr. Rabin for Israel's decision to call off the land expropriations in Jerusalem.

Says Russia Seeking To Host Arms Talks

TA2405134895 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 24 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Viktor Posuvalyuk told Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin that Russia is seeking to host the discussions of the working group on arms control within the framework of the multilateral talks.

Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that the two men also discussed the negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians and the visiting Russian official sought to clarify whether or not Israel would meet the 1 July target date for concluding the talks. Posuvalyuk did not receive a categorical reply. The two men also discussed the state of the negotiations between Syria and Israel.

Discusses Peace Process With Peres

TA2505104595 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 25 May 95 p A3

[Report by political correspondent Aluf Ben]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] In the course of political meetings yesterday in Jerusalem, Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Viktor Posuvalyuk said that "the situation in Russia is different now, and we must mainly take domestic considerations into account." Posuvalyuk explained that although Russia had sought to abstain in the Security Council vote on the draft resolution condemning the land expropriations in Jerusalem, "we could not do this because elections are scheduled at the end of the year, and President Yeltsin gave us instructions not to do anything to anger the opposition."

In his meeting with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, Posuvalyuk praised the government's decision to suspend the expropriations. Posuvalyuk told Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin: "We were very surprised by the decision to expropriate land in Jerusalem." Beilin said that the seizures were "legal but not wise," and his Russian counterpart wondered aloud whether the land expropriations had indeed been legal. Posuvalyuk expressed concern that the expropriations would foster resentment in the Arab world, despite the subsequent decision to freeze them. Beilin said that "all the reactions we received have been positive."

Peres told Posuvalyuk that in the event of a misunderstanding or disagreement, the relevant parties should deal with the problem themselves and refrain from raising it at international forums. The foreign minister vehemently criticized the Arab League and described it as an organization that "knows how to unite against Israel in the negative sense but does not contribute anything positive to peace. The Arab boycott has still not been lifted, and terrorist attacks continue." Peres told Posuvalyuk that "as cosponsors of the peace process, you must tell the Arabs that we have to conduct a dialogue and avoid confrontation." [passage omitted]

The foreign minister also told Posuvalyuk that sometimes the identity of the party that possesses weapons is more important than the actual quantities of arms it possesses. "Iran is the only country openly calling for Israel's destruction. If it acquires nuclear weapons, however, Iran will become a threat not only to us but to others as well." The Russian deputy foreign minister replied: "You do not have to tell us that. Iran is our neighbor, and we also do not want it to possess nuclear weapons."

With regard to the Syrian negotiations track, Peres told his guest that "time is running out, and we must take full advantage of the time remaining." As for the Palestinian Authority [PA], Peres said: "The situation in Gaza is not as bad as the critics say. 'Arafat is strengthening his hold in the field, and it shows." In a meeting with Posuvalyuk, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin also praised 'Arafat for fighting terrorism and deciding not to halt the negotiations despite the land expropriations in Jerusalem.

In all his meetings, Posuvalyuk called meetings for deeper bilateral relations between Russia and Israel, especially with regard to expediting the long delayed signing of economic agreements. He thanked President 'Ezer Weizman for attending the celebrations marking the 50th anniversary of the Allies' victory over the Nazis and invited his Israeli counterpart, Yosi Beilin, to visit Moscow in July.

Commentary Attacks Indyk Speech, Dual Containment

TA2405112695 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT (24 SHA'OT supplement) in Hebrew 24 May 95 p 3

[Commentary by Aharon Amir: "An American Hug"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Dr. Martin Indyk gave a short but multifaceted speech at Tel Aviv University's Dayan Center last week. It was his maiden address as the United States' new ambassador. For him, it also meant coming full circle, as he noted nostalgically: It was not too long ago that he spent a very important period at the institution (when it was still known as the Shiloah Institute).

Ambassador Indyk is chiefly identified with the strategic concept he developed toward Saddam Husayn's Iraq and the Muslim Republic of Iran. The concept of "dual containment" means applying constant pressure by boycotting and isolating both without trying to differentiate or separate them. He managed to impose his concept on Washington policymakers just as Dr. Henry Kissinger did 25 years ago.

In his address, the new ambassador wished to make it clear why the President tries so hard to lead our region toward "the new world" and why the secretary of state devotes so much time and energy to this part of the globe. The reason is simple: The United States has vital interests in the Middle East. There are interests which compel it to go to war and there are interests which compel it to strive for peace. The Israelis must know that what is involved are strategic interests: The first being the existence and security of the State of Israel, followed by the well-being of the superpower's friends in the Arab world, and lastly, free access to Persian Gulf oil at low prices.

Many in the audience were surprised to hear the eloquent ambassador attack the "few" in Israel who appear "not to understand our policy toward Iraq or our vital interests to contain it." Even if the Saddam regime sends signals to Israel, they are merely "a cynical, even desperate, attempt to attain its support for lifting the sanctions on Iraq." Any rapprochement between us and the Iraqis would give any government in the Arab world or in Europe "the excuse it is seeking!" to renew its relations with Iraq. "If Israel is prepared to maintain ties with Iraq, why shouldn't other states, especially if it means profitable contracts?"

While declaring that the dual containment policy is now more dynamic and resolute than ever, he also spoke about the importance of "the peace process" and the achievements reached so far. In particular, he stressed the urgency of an Israeli-Syrian peace to build a new order, to "normalize" relations, and to speed up democratization in the region. He did not, however, for some reason recall in any way that al-Asad occupied Lebanon.

Our patron's congeniality is insufficient to silence the doubts and fears on the Israeli side. Is the determined American effort to heat up the atmosphere around Iran (by the way, based on Israeli information) aimed at getting us to pull the chestnuts out of the fire for our great patron? Is there not a major danger in the hints emanating from the reports about the chance of a growing confrontation "between Iran and the United States or Israel?" and when American policymakers take so closely to their hearts the nice Israeli "poodle" is it not their aim to use its services as a fear- inspiring pure-bred rottweiler against any target they chose in the Middle East? The main point: Is not the strategic philosophy of "dual containment" not merely aimed at guaranteeing the basic economic interest of Saudi Arabia — the United States' No. 1 arms consumer — which spent some $50 billion on the Gulf war! and for whom postponing, or at least reducing as much as possible, the impact of the flow of Iraqi (and perhaps even Iranian) oil on the level of prices in the world market is extremely important?!

Turkmen President Comments on Neutrality, Iran

TA2405152295 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 24 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Turkmen President Saparmurad Niyazov arrived on a state visit to Israel this morning. He was received at the president's residence. In their congratulatory remarks, Niyazov and his host, President 'Ezer Weizman, stressed that both countries wish to expand economic, technical, and cultural cooperation between them. Niyazov called on Israel to learn from his country's experience in regional development, and stressed that his country adheres to its neutral policy.

Our correspondent Gid'on Remez notes that Turkmenistan borders on Iran from the north, and wishes to ship its natural gas resources through Iranian territory. Before the visit, Turkmen sources reported that there may be the participation of Israeli companies in parts of the plan, which the United States opposes.

Meets Rabin, Signs Agreements

TA2405165495 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 24 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Visiting Turkmen President Niyazov held a working session with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin this afternoon. The meeting was also attended by Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres and Health Minister Efrayim Sne. This was reported by our political correspondent Shlomo Raz.

The Turkmen president noted that his country has a long border with and maintains good ties with Iran. The prime minister elaborated on the need to expand cooperation between the two countries, and noted the Iranian involvement in Islamic terrorism which seeks to destabilize the region and sabotage the peace process.

The prime minister and the visiting president signed agreements on investments, tourism, and education.

Likud Denies ADP Reports on Netanyahu Offers

TA2405161695 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 24 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Knesset Member [MK] 'Abd al-Wahhab Darawshah of the Arab Democratic Party's [ADP] said today that Likud leaders, Binyamin Netanyahu and others, approached his party on several occasions over the past several months offering to overthrow the government and set up another government of which they would be members. According to him, the Likud promised to give the ADP ministerial positions in a government they would lead.

MK Darawshah told our correspondent that his party rejected the offer due to differences over principles and substantive issues between the parties. MK Darawshah called the Likud conduct on this matter hypocritical. They oppose our support for a Rabin and Labor-led government, but are willing to have us as members of a coalition they would lead.

Binyamin Netanyahu's spokesman said in reaction that Darawshah's remarks are pure nonsense. Netanyahu never had and is not conducting any negotiations with the ADP on overthrowing the government. A Likud-led government will never depend on non-Zionist parties such as the one of which Darawshah is a member.

MK Darawshah again stressed that the Likud made the offer to overthrow the government and establish a new one with tem on several occasions.

Likud Rejects Claims of Interference in Peace Talks

TA2505074395 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0700 GMT 25 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In an interview on Qol Yisra'el this morning, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said that the remarks made by the Syrian foreign minister, according to which he received heavy hints from the Likud chairman advising the Syrians to wait for the Likud to come to power, indicate that this caused a delay in Damascus' readiness to make progress in the peace process.

Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that the Likud rejects the prime minister's remarks. A Likud statement says that it is Yitzhaq Rabin's custom to blame his own mishaps on the opposition. According to the Likud, Rabin is trying to do this with regard to the Golan issue. He would be better advised to stop this and make sure that Israel does not come down from the Golan Heights.

The Likud, NRP [National Religious Party], and Tzomet Knesset factions are demanding that the prime minister present all the agreements and understandings with the Syrians to the Knesset next week. The heads of the right-wing factions say that revealing a little while covering up more of what has been attained with the Syrians is not proper democratic procedure. They fear that behind the understandings, there is also an Israeli agreement to withdraw from all of the Golan Heights, which the Knesset has not agreed to yet.

King, 'Arafat Address Business Forum in Amman

King Urges 'Sacrifices' for Peace

JN2405121795 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1100 GMT 24 May 95

[Speech by King Husayn at a meeting of Jordanian and Palestinian businessmen and economists attended by PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat at al-Hashimiyah Palace in Amman on 24 May — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] Your Excellency Brother Yasir 'Arafat, respected brothers. In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. I am fully hopeful and confident that through experience and the long journey, the dangers and challenges that we have faced, and the sacrifices that we have made, we all have risen to the level of responsibility which each of us is carrying at this stage and which will be carried by the coming generations. We are proud of our brotherhood, which is an undeniable fact. We are proud of the Palestinian people's sacrifices and their steadfastness on their national soil, of their forbearance and firmness. We are proud, here in the land of the ansar [supporters of the Palestinians], of being the closest to Palestine, the land and the people, and will always be that way, God willing, supporting their rights on their national soil on the road to realizing the just and comprehensive peace in this region.

Peace is one of God's attributes. It is the aim of every believer. Peace provides security and relief for man, giving him the opportunity to work and build and realize his aspirations and allowing him to live in dignity on his soil and land while also recognizing others' right to peace. It is not the beginning of the road. The beginning has been struggle, strife, and sacrifices that lasted for a long time. During this time, the Palestinian Arab people chose their leadership. This choice was blessed by all the Arabs, foremost of whom are us. It was also supported by the Muslims and the entire world. They supported the PLO, the sole legitimate representatives of the Palestinian people, and their leadership, represented by my brother, President Yasir 'Arafat.

In answer to all questions, I emphasize that we have no aims or ambition except our desire to perform our duty in supporting our people and brothers to realize their rights on their national soil and land. When they become free on this land, enjoying — and we, too, are trying to achieve the same thing — freedom, democracy, respect for human rights; when everyone feels that he is part of the making of the present and the future, then a dialogue will begin on how we can further build together, how we can strengthen our relations further on the firm ground on which we will be standing.

We do not change our stands, convictions, or commitments. The PLO is the sole, legitimate representative of the Palestinian Arab people and their leadership, represented by my brother, President Yasir 'Arafat. Frankly speaking — and he may agree with me — we tried and may have succeeded or erred, but we did our best and will continue to do so. From this rostrum in this house of yours, I reiterate that there is no leadership but this leadership, and no organization but the PLO. We will not recognize, cooperate with, or allow any quarter whatsoever to work against this concept on Jordanian territory in any way whatsoever. The path is difficult, arduous, and long. I think that both of us at this age and after all these years and hard work have no other aim than the welfare, future, and stability of this human being who will come after us all — the aim of giving him the opportunity to build and learn and be at the required level in order to live in this age. We seek the satisfaction of Almighty God first, and performance of duty toward coming generations, hoping that people will then speak well of us.

There is absolutely no room for pessimism, skepticism, or bargaining. Speaking in a frank and brotherly manner, we say it is high time for those living in ivory towers away from reality and the people's suffering to be a little ashamed — if this is the right expression — and stop trading in the future and destiny of peoples. One-upmanship against those working hard, standing fast, sacrificing their lives, and enduring patiently is really shameful. Once again, I thank my brother for asking me to be present at this meeting. I am happy to be with him and with you all. I have known most of you throughout the long march as builders and hard workers. I would like to say here that the Palestinian and Jordanian arenas abound with qualifications, expertise, brains, capabilities. This is no exaggeration. This is known in our Arab world and the entire world. It is also known that your role is big in the battle to change man's living pattern in order to provide him with chances to live a free and dignified life on his soil. Your role in the battle is one against despair, frustration, and pessimism. Your role is one of bravely, faithfully, and daringly discussing things among yourselves in order to attain the best formulas to perform your big role. I am proud of you and every Arab, particularly every Palestinian and Jordanian, will be proud of you after us. You will find many who tell you this is not true. No, this is true and it is a duty. This is dictated on people by honor and responsibility. Let us serve our people so that we will catch up with this world. Enough of loss. Nobody can outbid us in our sacrifices and giving. Our path is that of awareness. God willing, we will always be aware and capable along the path of continuous giving, the path of good, success, with the help of Almighty God.

I would like to thank my brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] and all of you. As you have always known me, consider me one of you, one of these people, who have to make sacrifices for their nation and who, God willing, be a model to be emulated by others along the path of development and aspired future, God willing. I greet my brother once again and pledge in front of him and you all that no one from my side will stand between us. The PLO is the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian Arab people and this is the leader of the PLO, the brother you all know. Help him. Pass on to him any remarks you may have. His success is yours and your success is his. Help ye one another in righteousness and piety, but help ye not one another in sin and rancor. [Koranic verse]

May's God's peace and blessings be upon you. [applause]

'Arafat Stresses Improving Economy

JN2405153995 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1119 GMT 24 May 95

[Speech by PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat at a meeting of Jordanian and Palestinian businessmen and economists attended by King Husayn at al-Hashimiyah Palace in Amman on 24 May — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. And they say: Work righteousness, soon will God observe your work, and His Apostle, and the believers. [Koranic verse]

Your majesty, the beloved king, the friend, the brother, and the comrade. On behalf of everyone, I thank your majesty for sponsoring this ceremony and this blessed meeting which truely expresses the firm ties between members of the one family which is led by your majesty. God willing, we will all perform prayers in the first of the two qiblahs, the third holiest mosque, the point of Prophet Muhammad's midnight journey to the seven heavens, and the cradle of Jesus Christ, may God's peace and blessing be upon them, in Jerusalem, the capital of the state of Palestine. [applause] I also welcome my brother, Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir and his brothers, the ministers. I also thank brothers 'Abd-al-Majid Shuman, Munib al-Masri, and the other brothers who have won the consent of God, their people, and nation, for having arranged this meeting. I consider this meeting important to entrench the pillars of the joint Palestinian-Jordanian-Arab action. Without this joint action, we will not be able to achieve anything. We should be united to confront challenges. Unity strengthens our position, but disunity makes us vulnerable.

I thank you all for attending this meeting. In my own name, and on behalf of all attendees, I would like to thank His Majesty King Husayn for sponsoring this meeting. I assure you, God willing, this firm relationship, which is based on strong pillars and foundations, will continue. No one will be able to fragment us. This relationship will be an example for our Arab nation. I know that Munib al-Masri, with whom I had a lengthy talk, is dissatisfied. If anyone of you have 10 objections to Oslo Agreement, I have 1,000 objections, and my brother Abu-'Ala' [Ahmad Quray'] has 100,000 objections. However, brothers, we have planted our feet, in the name of the entire Arab nation, on this land, on the first Palestinian land. Brothers, we should not be told: Go thou, and thy Lord, and fight ye two, while we sit here and watch. [Koranic verse]. We should support each other. Brothers, I tell you that the infrastructure is completely destroyed. His majesty the king knows the size of this destruction which was caused by occupation. What shall I tell you? Shall I tell you that we have a quarter of a bed for every 1,000 citizens? I spoke with brother Dr. Ashraf al-Kurdi yesterday. I really thank him because — although he is not as rich as those who are in front of me — through a personal initiative, he enabled us to avoid going to Israeli hospitals where one pays $300 for one night. I am sorry, forgive me, I am speaking frankly.

My brothers, the medicine we get from the Israelis costs four to five times more than the medicine we could get from here. You also have cement. I do not want to enumerate the items, but there are many items. I say this to make you realize the extent of the suffering. What can I tell you more than this? There is even a problem with the water we drink. Our agricultural products are governed by the Israelis. If the Israelis are so nice, then they will take some flowers and some fruit from us. They do take them from us at very cheap prices and label them as Israeli products and then export them. Also, the clothes, Hani. Is Hani here? Yes, he is. You saw the clothes, Hani, from Tulkarm to Gaza. They put an Israeli label on clothing articles and export them. Is this logical? This is happening while you are watching us.

I want only to say one thing. You can say that the administration is not good, as you read in the press. Also, you can question the organization. But do I have the wand of Moses? Your Majesty: Can I do everything overnight? All of us, young and old, and with the help of his majesty and the other Arab brothers, can barely do something. However, I want to tell you another thing. Take schools, for example. We took over responsibility for schools, and they have admitted that schools are being run in the best way possible. We changed some curricula that have been taught for 27 years. We changed the curricula. Today, schools extend from Janin to Rafah. The other day, I attended a celebration in Gaza. I really cried when I attended. Is it possible that those people have been there for 27 years? Some of them did not study at all during the seven years of the intifadah. They did not even find one teacher. What can I tell you about schools? Our schools work three shifts. You have more than 60 students in each class. Is that reasonable?

What can I tell you about other problems? The occupation has not left any infrastructure? We are beginning from scratch. I am sure, however, that through this unified march, and under the sponsorship of his majesty, and through this Jordanian-Palestinian relationship, the Palestinian-Egyptian relationship, and the Palestinian-Egyptian-Jordanian-Arab relationship, we can really build an economy not only for Palestine or Jordan, but for the entire Arab nation. This is because we should know that we are today facing a cultural challenge, which is based on economy.

The nuclear arsenal of the Soviet Union, which no longer exists, is a universal problem. The problem is how to maintain this arsenal, because if they don't do that, they fear it. It is a problem. Despite this, what was the cause of the defeat of the Soviet Union? It is the economy. It suffered defeat because there was no good administration. Take the PRC. Despite its poverty, it has challenged others. It now has over 14 percent annual increase. Therefore, we really need to show the world that we can establish our feet firmly on the ground. Can't we do this? If we don't do this, we will be slaves to this global economic machine, in which Israel is trying to be the major power in the Middle East.

These facts mean that we have great responsibilities to bear. Some might say: But, Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat]: Can we go over there? Is there security? I tell you: I can proudly say that we have managed to establish the foundations of security to a good extent. I cannot tell you it is one hundred percent good. Look at what happened in Oklahoma in the United States. I cannot tell you there is perfect security. But the citizens are safe. What can I tell you? In the past, a man could not drive a car, with his wife sitting next to him.

But now, go and see how social life is in Gaza. There is tranquility and there is life. Ask your brothers who have come back. Is this not true? You are one of these brothers. Munib [al-Masri], is this not so? Sabih [al-Masri] is this not so, or have you not felt this security? I know that indiscipline still prevails in Nabulus. Ghassan, is this not so? But, it goes without saying that my brothers in the municipalities headed by your brothers Ghassan and Abu-Mustafa, who are here among us, have actually succeeded in doing something of which we can be proud. But of what use is it if they can do something but do not have an industrial zone? Is this possible? Should I go beg the donor countries? These are withholding countries and not donor countries. It suffices for me to say that World Bank Vice President (Kurt Weizer) told the conferees in Brussels: I am ashamed to look President 'Arafat in the eyes because we promised him $720 million a year. This sum dwindled to $400 million, then to $240 million. Now, we have promised him $125 million. They still have to pay $59 million from $125 million. What should I tell you? In spite of all this, there is one thing, brothers. There is high morale which makes people accept to stand two hours at Erez [checkpoint] or at the Allenby Bridge. The other day, they told us: If you want to bring in goods from Jordan, it should be back to back [preceding words in English]. This means that we must unload, then load them again under their supervision from a security point of view. We agreed to this and told them we accept the challenge, and we should do this. But, should I do this alone? Am I a businessman? Am I the one who has the solution? You have the solution, and you are the ones who can carry out projects. Am I the one who carries out projects? You are the ones who can carry out projects. That's why this challenge is not to me. Your Majesty, if you permit me, this challenge is to them before being directed to me or to you. This elite group of Jordanian and Palestinian businessmen can challenge this giant which seeks to subdue us economically.

Brothers, the battle is an economic one; To be or not to be. That's why I keep saying that, God willing, I have high hopes.

His majesty's gracious gesture of sponsoring this meeting, attending this meeting, and addressing it is a great source of pride for us. Your Majesty, I thank you for this from all my heart. We always expect good and blessings from your majesty. God willing, and with your blessings, this meeting will produce many things. If we are unable to continue, we will form a joint committee, a working committee, a followup committee. We should not lie in a bed of roses. There are many big and clear challenges. And say: Work righteousness, soon will God observe your work, and his Apostle the believers. [Koranic verse] [applause]

Prime Minister, 'Arafat Review Ties, Peace Process

JN2405162995 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 24 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Jordanian side, led by Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir, and the Palestinian side, led by President Yasir 'Arafat, head of the Palestinian National Authority [PNA], held a meeting at the Prime Ministry today. During the meeting, there was a comprehensive review of bilateral ties and ways of enhancing them to serve the interests of the two fraternal peoples. In addition, there was a full review of the peace process, recent developments in the region, and Arab, regional, and international issues.

Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir emphasized the depth of the Jordanian-Palestinian relationship and Jordan's eagerness to support the Palestinian people, under the PLO, their sole, legitimate representative. This is meant to enable the Palestinian brothers to achieve their legitimate objectives and rights on their national soil. The prime minister also asserted Jordan's eagerness to support PNA efforts that seek to achieve the goals and hopes of the Palestinian people, namely, progress and prosperity. He added that Jordan will strongly support its Palestinian brothers.

For his part, President 'Arafat expressed his thanks and appreciation to Jordan — to the king, government, and people — for the efforts Jordan is making to support the PNA and the Palestinian people and enable them to achieve their legitimate objectives. President 'Arafat emphasized the close ties between the one Jordanian-Palestinian family.

During the meeting, it has been agreed to remove obstacles to free trade between Jordan and the PNA, since this will benefit the Palestinian people. In addition, all Jordanian expertise will be put at the disposal of the Palestinian brothers to help them in the process of development. It has also been agreed to set up an economic committee to serve as a mechanism of coordination on the level of public and private sectors between the two sides. The purpose of this is to coordinate stands before the Amman economic conference, which will be held in the end of October. Jordan wants this conference to give a real boost to regional development projects that would positively reflect on the participating sides, especially the Arab sides.

The two sides further discussed the distinguished role of Europe, Canada, and Japan in support of the peace process in the region. This role should be reactivated in the next stage, considering its importance to the success of the Amman economic conference. The two sides also underlines the need to support efforts for a just, comprehensive, and lasting peace in the region.

Attending for the Jordanian side were the minister of state for cabinet affairs and the ministers of state for the the affairs of the Foreign Ministry, the Interior Ministry, the Trade and Industry Ministry, the Telecommunications and Transport Ministry, the Water Ministry, and the representative of the Foreign Ministry at Jordan's Office in Gaza. Attending for the Palestinian side were the ministers of economy, trade, culture, and finance, the Palestinian charge d'affaires in Amman, and President Yasir 'Arafat's adviser and PNA official spokesman.

Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir received President Yasir 'Arafat, head of the PNA, in his office for some time. In a statement to reporters and to our correspondent for political affairs after the meeting, President 'Arafat expressed his deep appreciation to His Majesty King Husayn for opening an important Jordanian-Palestinian economic meeting this morning. President 'Arafat also thanked the prime minister for his efforts to convene this meeting.

[Begin recording] ['Arafat] First of all, I express my thanks to his excellency the prime minister for meeting with us and holding this businesslike and useful meeting. We discussed ways to promote what we have signed earlier and how we can strengthen Palestinian-Jordanian ties on all levels. On this occasion, I reiterate my deep appreciation to his majesty the king for opening this important Jordanian-Palestinian economic forum. I also thank the prime minister, because without his efforts, the conference would not have been held.

[Correspondent] Regarding the economic forum you attended today, is Abu-'Ammar ['Arafat] satisfied with the results of this meeting?

['Arafat] Praise be to God. It is a good beginning, and it will be followed by many other steps that will materialize on more than one level, including the upcoming meeting of the economic conference in October which his majesty referred to and about which I spoke.

[Correspondent] Have you received assurances from Israel that the decision to suspend land usurpation is final?

['Arafat] Regrettably, so far we haven't. This is why we are still waiting.

[Correspondent] Have you asked for any guarantees?

['Arafat] No doubt about that, including the guarantees we have received from the U.S. sponsor. We have a U.S. letter of assurances, which we received in the beginning of the Madrid talks, that no demographic changes will take place on the ground.

[Correspondent] Do you expect Arab action to make this suspension decision final?

['Arafat] More unified and firm Arab positions can change the whole equation in the region. [end recording]

Paper Urges Continued Efforts To Protect Jerusalem

JN2405103095 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 24 May 95 p 1

[Editorial: "Follow-Up Efforts"]

[FBIS Translated Text] After the Israeli decision to suspend the confiscation of land in Jerusalem and after the Arab decision to suspend the convening of an Arab mini-summit, what is needed are intensive efforts to formulate the means to deal with all future possibilities, and the options that can be resorted to in any eventuality.

If Israel suspended its decision, then the suspension of everything dealing with Jerusalem is required until the Jerusalem file is fully opened in the future. There is an agreement among the parties to peace in the region that the Jerusalem issue should be postponed until the desired progress is achieved on all tracks and on all topics. Israel accepted this agreement and it has no right to make any change on the ground regarding the city, people, and, first and foremost, the holy shrines of Jerusalem.

Intensifying efforts on the level of the Jerusalem Committee, the Arab and Muslim foreign ministers, and on the summit level through continuous contacts among Arab leaders, will help to make Israel adbide by its decision. Otherwise, Israel will take advantage of the suspension of the Arab mini-summit and Arab contacts to circumvent its decision and use it as a canopy for Israeli measures that could be dangerous and destructive to the Arabism of Jerusalem.

Moreover, it is necessary to follow up contacts with the United States, on the one hand, and the European Community, on the other in order to achieve guarantees that prevent the Israelis from implementing their schemes, which have not been revoked or changed by the suspension decision. International responsibility is important toward an issue such as the Jerusalem issue. Otherwise, whatever peace is achieved will be built on quicksand, and will certainly collapse if Israel wants peace as well as the land. Besides, Jerusalem is not just any land.

Hizballah To Decide Position on Cabinet Role

NC2505070195 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0530 GMT 25 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Hizballah Secretary General Sayyid Hasan Nasrallah has said that the next few days will be critical, noting that the party will determine its position on taking part in the government within 24 to 48 hours.

In a lecture at the Faculty of Engineering at the Lebanese University yesterday afternoon to mark 'Id al-Ghadir, his eminence said that the party, which is very interested in the issue of the resistance and the future of Lebanon and the region, is equally concerned with everything that happens in Lebanon on the various levels. Those who sacrifice the blood of their dear youth in defense of their people, freedom, and dignity cannot be neutral to the economic crises and the political and administrative scandals the people of this country are facing, he said.

Asked about the party's position on the constitutional amendment, Nasrallah said it was revealed in remarks by Ibrahim Amin al-Sayyid, chief of the parliamentary bloc on Loyalty to the Resistance, following parliamentary consultations. He said there are no red lights when it comes to resistance of the enemy. The resistance has developed disciplines to govern its performance, he said.

Columnist Criticizes U.S. Ambassador to UN

NC2405173495 Beirut AL-NAHAR in Arabic 19 May 95 p 1

[Column by Nabil Khuri: "The Story of the Veto"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Comparison between us and the world is unfair: unfair to us. It leads us into labyrinths that we cannot get out of.

Today's talk is not about Lebanon, as someone might think, but about this big and populated world in which the rich have become poor, the strong have become weak, and those who used to "scratch" have their nails cut.

A most recent example: There is an ugly woman who reminds us of Golda Meir. She defies us every day. Her latest defiance was her use of the veto when we demanded that the Security Council condemn or convict Israel for its expropriation of Arab land in Jerusalem.

The lady visited us recently. We welcomed her, although she came to "persuade" us not to enter into a confrontation with Israel over the signing of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty. She finally "persuaded" us. The treaty was extended and Israel did not sign it.

Regardless of our view of Saddam Husayn, his mad invasion of Kuwait, how and why this invasion took place, how and why he was involved, the "beautiful" lady insists on punishing the Iraqi people for the Iraqi president's crime. She can sleep well now that the Iraqi people will continue to starve for another six months.

It might be said she is not responsible because she is implementing her country's policy. This might be true but she is implementing this policy with unenviable enjoyment.

She is venting her anger at us because she cannot vent it elsewhere in the world, including that private place for venting anger.

She always makes the mistake of sitting in the wrong place on the Security Council. She sits on the U.S. seat instead of Israel's seat.

A prize for anyone who knows her name.

Commentary Lashes Out at Arabs for Suspending Summit

NC2505084495 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0550 GMT 25 May 95

[From the "Spotlight on the News:" "The Summit of Desperation"]

[FBIS Translated Text] No sooner had the enemy government announced a freeze on or suspension of a decision to expropriate 57 dunams of land in occupied Jerusalem than the Arabs expressed relief and accordingly suspended their summit. They did that as if the summit had been something they did not want but felt they had to threaten. The Zionist move saved them from its evil. Or it was as if the call for the summit had been a call for a hated war that Arabs accepted reluctantly and sluggishly. The minute someone told them that Shim'on Peres had suspended the expropriation decision, they took a deep breath and fell back.

Inasmuch as the freeze does not mean that the expropriation decision has been canceled or that the fate of Jerusalem is no longer at stake, the decision to postpone or cancel the summit was hasty and showed how fragile the idea of solidarity and Arab consultations has become. Arab stances have become so circumstantial that the days of Arab consensus on common interests are a thing of the past. An Arab meeting here or there for one reason or another has become as good as rumor.

We say, unfortunately, that those who see no reason to meet other than the enemy government's decision to expropriate 57 dunams have no sentimental link with their nation and its issues. The challenges are enormous and the threats grave. Primary among these are the American and Zionist threats.

Even before a few dunams were at stake, Jerusalem was a prisoner and an occupied place. Enemy leaders do not stop repeating that it is their eternally united capital. Between this and that there are thousands of issues that require the Arabs to meet and cooperate.

It is also unfortunate that Arab leaders should be driven into a corner even before agreeing to hold their summit of shame and desperation. No sooner were the pressing circumstances over than the issue of the summit meeting evaporated. Is this not the peak of desperation? The Arabs have now lost hope of their leaders meeting.

We do not think this reproach is enough. In reality there is a daily and constant tragedy. Most are mere bystanders. Even when some Arabs, Syria and Lebanon, asked their brothers to proceed slowly and thoughtfully over normalization with the Zionist enemy, it was impossible to deter those who were rushing toward it as if the race to the enemy's arms had become a privilege for which they were competing.

We say this because some Arabs are trying to show concern for Jerusalem at a timid summit that will at the most produce a timid statement. These are the same Arabs who shamed Arab humility when they shook the hand of the enemy, the hand that was stained with the blood of their brothers.

We cannot believe that yesterday's Camp David Godfather wants to triumph for Palestine and Jerusalem today with a summit. Those who gathered Arabs yesterday to listen to Yitzhaq Rabin and Shim'on Peres' sermons and instructions will not fly the flag in the liberation of Jerusalem, or even the 57 dunams [amount of land as heard], today. The pressing question is: Who is responsible for the ordeal? Is it not those who never held a summit for the good of Arabs or to face the repercussions of the constant Zionist onslaught? They held many summits for different reasons, including inciting the Arabs against the Islamic Republic of Iran? Do Arabs have the key to determine their fate?

The world makes its own decisions and talks about its interests. We alone do not have this will or ability to determine our interests. Our interests are determined for us by America, our friends, and our enemies. Even Israel is now giving us lessons about friends and enemies. A friend wants everything good for us. Just look at Shim'on Peres' book about the new Middle East. As for the enemies of the Arabs, they are the Iranians, the Iraqis, the Libyans, and the Islamic fundamentalists. This is the Zionist agenda that some Arabs want to use for guidance and that Israel tries to force on the rest. If we lack the ability to distinguish friends from enemies or to determine our interests, is there anything left for us? Our reality has become a fantasy, a mirage, and our identity is what Washington wants us to be: A market for ideas, products, commodities, and weapons, through the end of an endless list.

Radio Reports Security 'Understanding' With Israel

JN2505052095 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0415 GMT 25 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Washington — U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher announced yesterday that Israel and Syria have agreed on a framework of understanding on security arrangements, and that military experts from both sides will discuss the issue in Washington toward the end of June.

REUTER quoted Christopher, in a statement read by his spokesman Nicholas Burns, as saying that Dennis Ross, U.S. special Middle East coordinator, will visit the region next week, and that Christopher will tour the Middle East shortly afterward.

In his statement, Christopher said: It pleases me to announce the attainment of a host of understandings on security arrangements under the auspices of the U.S. Administration in the aftermath of the visits to Washington by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'.

Christopher added that these understandings constitute the terms of reference that will be the basis for meetings between Israeli and Syrian military experts under the auspices of the U.S. Administration in an attempt to reach agreement on security arrangements.

For its part, BBC Radio said that the fact that this news report was announced in Washington means that Israel is supposed to have accepted the Syrian demands regarding security arrangements.

Daily Ridicules Rabin 'Blackmail' Over Land

JN2505081295 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 25 May 95

[From the press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] The newspaper AL-THAWRAH highlights the blackmail attempt Yitzhaq Rabin is exercising by suspending the decision to confiscate lands in occupied Jerusalem, saying: It is unreasonable for Yitzhaq Rabin to argue that the mere suspension of the decision to confiscate lands in occupied Jerusalem will promote the peace process and help identify the proper grounds for the maintenance of the negotiating process. The suspension of the decision to confiscate lands in occupied Jerusalem is no more than a petty, awkward, and tactical move aimed at defusing international wrath and preventing the collapse of the Rabin government.

AL-THAWRAH adds: This move will not convince anyone that Israel has actually begun to nurture the peace process or that it has abandoned the policy of procrastination and provocation. Nor can it assure people that Israel has become willing to comply with the relevant international resolutions, which deem inadmissible the acquisition of others' territory by force, and view land confiscations as null, void, and illegal.

The paper goes on to say: If it seeks to show good faith with regard to its peace claims and to the heal the wounds suffered by the peace process due to its constant evasion of the requirements and components of peace, Israel is required, first and foremost, to change its positions and its anomalous and erroneous concepts of peace. Likewise, it must declare a commitment to withdrawal to the 4 June 1967 borders.

Commentary Doubts Israeli Peace Intentions

JN2405150295 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1150 GMT May 95

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Dear listeners: [eight-second break in transmission] to confiscate Arab lands in holy Jerusalem, than this government reiterated its determination to go ahead with its plans to Judaize Jerusalem, continue settlement activity, and expand the existing settlements. Following up the developments and effects of the Israeli decision to suspend land confiscations and Israeli officials' subsequent attempts to circumvent this decision and use it in the interest of the occupation, land seizures, and settlement expansion, we can only affirm that the Rabin government continues to wager on creating Israeli realities on the ground to leave the Arabs with nothing to demand. The Rabin government continues its attempts to conceal its objectives, policies, and plans to seize and control more Arab lands. This is evidenced by Israel's persistence in placing obstacles and planting mines on the path of the peace process, threatening the peace process, and circumventing the resolutions of international legitimacy.

In this context, it becomes absolutely clear that Israel is deliberately promoting anesthetic steps as a part of its already known maneuvers which can no longer fool anybone. After Israel announced a freeze on its decision to confiscate 53 hectares of the lands of holy Jerusalem, Israeli bulldozers today began to level lands for building housing units for settlers after receiving the Israeli Interior Ministry's approval. Meanwhile, two Rabin cabinet ministers yesterday declared that the Israeli Government will not go back on settlement building in Jerusalem. This proves that Israel is still far away from the bases and principles of the peace process. Had Israel been serious about contributing to the peacemaking process, Israel would have rescinded the rejected, denounced, and illegal decisions to annex Jerusalem and the Golan

Heights. It would have consequently declared its commitment to implementing the UN Security Council resolutions calling for complete Israeli withdrawal to the 4 June 1967 lines and would have acknowledged the land-for-peace principle.

The Israeli proposals that actually aim at keeping Arab territory under occupation reveal objectives that basically contravene the true and objective orientations of the peace process. Moreover, those proposals threaten the peace process and regional stability and calm. Israel accompany such proposals with continued hostile practices against the Arabs and their rights. Meanwhile, the occupation troops continue to support and cover the settlers as they attack the Arabs and their holy places and carry out base and brutal acts against worshippers in churches and mosques. Therefore, the aggressive, provocative practices, such as the attack on the Franciscan Church in Arab Yafo, opening fire and hurling bombs in the church, settlers' attack on dozens of worshipers in the holy al- Aqsa mosque in Jerusalem, and storming the al-Ahli Hospital in Hebron are an indivisible part of an official Israeli policy aiming to intimidate the Arabs in their lands and places of worship. Those policies also aim at violating Arab national and pan-Arab rights and dealing blows and stabs to the peace process and its bases, particularly the termination of the occupation, ensuring Arab rights, and the restoration of occupied lands.

Israel's misleading allegations and insincere statements about peace cannot lead to peace. The road to peace is clear. For the peace process to arrive at its goals and objectives, it needs a sincere and faithful will responding to the requirements of peace. This is what Israel is avoiding through its refusal to give up the occupied Arab territories and through its insistence on partial solutions, separate deals, and humiliating agreements.

PLO's Qaddumi Praises Country's Stances, Departs

JN2305184395 Damascus SANA in Arabic
1650 GMT 23 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Damascus, 23 May (SANA) — Faruq Qaddumi, chief of the PLO Political Department, left Damascus this evening following a visit to the Syrian Arab Republic that lasted several days.

Qaddumi was seen off at Damascus International Airport by Yusuf Shakkur, assistant foreign minister; senior Foreign Ministry officials; and the head of the PLO Office in Damascus.

In a statement to the Syrian Arab News Agency, SANA, Qaddumi lauded Syria's constant positions and President Hafiz al-Asad's wise policy toward Arab issues, as well as Syria's insistence on achieving a just and comprehensive peace in the region that safeguards Arab rights.

Qaddumi added that his visit to Damascus has an important political dimension. We have been acquainted with the Syrian position, which adheres to constant principles, he said. This pioneering position insists on a political settlement that ensures a just and comprehensive solution in the region, safeguards Arab rights, and restores all occupied Arab territories in accordance with the resolutions of international legitimacy, he added.

Qaddumi pointed out that he discussed with Syrian officials the need to adhere to these political principles and enhance Arab solidarity and joint Arab action. He added: It has been proven in practice that Israel never honors any pledge or promise. Therefore, it was necessary to consult with Syria to discuss what might happen in the future and to underline the need to maintain the PLO, since it is the sole, legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. It also expresses their identity. This requires bolstering Palestinian national unity and reactivating the role of PLO institutions through continuous dialogue among the factions of the Palestinian revolution.

Qaddumi urged Arab countries to support the Palestinian people and the PLO. He said: As usual, we have expressed our concerns to the leadership in fraternal Syria. This leadership has been in the habit of discussing our concerns and taking care of them. It also usually resolves many of the problems we face.

Bangladesh

Official, Press View of U.S. Resolution Veto

Official Calls Move 'Regrettable'

BK2405150195 Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 22 May 95 p 1

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina in a statement strongly protested the veto to killed a UN Security Council resolution calling on Israel to rescind its expropriation of Arab land in East Jerusalem. [sentence as published]

The Awami League chief said that the Israeli decision to expropriate Arab land in Palestine would disrupt the peace process in that region. She pointed out that the entire world was hopeful of peace and normalcy in the Middle East following the peace agreement signed between Israel and PLO at the U.S. initiative. She said that the U.S. veto in the Security Council ignoring the world opinion was regrettable.

Editorial: 'Landed Like a Bomb'

BK2405135995 Dhaka THE MORNING SUN in English 20 May 95 p 4

[Editorial: "The U.S. Veto Bomb"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The U.S. veto against the United Nations Security Council resolution on Wednesday [17 May] calling for Israel to scrap its seizure of Arab land in East Jerusalem landed like a bomb. The world's most powerful nation has used its special privilege for the 70th time to devastate the Islamic sensibilities surrounding a territory that belonged to a Muslim country, but had been under the occupation of an invader for the last 38 years.

The singular American action has sent many portentous signals across the world. One of them is that there is nothing wrong in the integration of neighbor's territory by force. Military adventure is not all that bad if you can sustain it. What is unfortunate is that the U.S. veto has gone against the very principles the United Nations had stood for. It had pledged to safeguard national sovereignty of members and do everything possible to help vacate illegal occupation of territory. It was this principle which had inspired the U.S. to punish Iraq for its illegal conquest of Kuwait. But principle is a relative term and it changes like English weather.

Another signal is that Israel is the ultimate American preference when it comes to choosing between the Jewish state and the Islamic world. Why did Washington throw its weight behind Israel? How much was its stake and what was its compulsion? The answer is not far to seek.

U.S. ambassador Madeleine Albright had told the Security Council that she was casting her vote reluctantly, but without hesitation. She called it an issue of principle. And the principle was that direct talks between the parties were essential for achieving what she called "just, lasting, and comprehensive peace in the Middle East."

What she perhaps did not like to realize that a lasting peace in the world would be a distant dream if invaders were allowed to expropriate the occupied land. Perhaps she would have been at one with us if the focus were at a different plateau. Good and dispassionate judgment does not work in the American mind when Israel is the privy. Perhaps she was stressing on the umbilical cord between U.S. and Israel for which any excesses on the part of that Jewish state must get an avuncular forgiveness. The influence of Jewish lobby in America, particularly when a presidential election is hardly a year away, is another crucial factor not to be overlooked.

The U.S. veto has already outraged the Muslim world. Top Islamic leaders are expected to meet in Morocco later this month to chart out a course in the wake of the American let-down. Jordan, a traditional U.S. ally, has been particularly harsh on the veto. Its foreign minister, Abd al-Karim al-Kabariti [name as published], has described it as "immoral and hypocritical". PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat said the veto was incompatible with U.N. resolutions and international agreements.

There was however another lesson to learn from the veto. America was odd man out in the Security Council because all the other 14 members voted in favour of the resolution asking Israel to stop grabbing the land. But for high and mighty such as America, it did not really matter. The veto bomb is the most dangerous weapon in its diplomatic arsenal. Regrettably enough, America has used the device for the first time since the end of the cold war, and that too against the Islamic world.

India

'Paucity of Funds' Said Delaying Nuclear Projects

BK2405094495 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 24 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Lok Sabha was told that the cost and time overrun in the ongoing atomic power projects is due to new design, safety factor, escalation, and variations in foreign exchange rates. The minister of state in the prime minister's office, Mr. Bhuvanesh Chaturvedi, told the house during question hour that paucity of funds is also a factor for the delay in completion of projects.

Self-Sufficiency Claimed in Nuclear Technology

BK2505093495 Delhi THE ASIAN AGE in English 25 May 95 p 5

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Bombay, May 24 — India is self-sufficient in safety-related technologies and equipments to operate its atomic power stations and will not be affected by US threats to ban export of such equipment.

Sources at the Nuclear Power Corporation [NPC] said the threats are intended to pressure India into signing the discriminatory Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

The NPC has not been receiving any assistance from the US in design, construction and operation of commercial power reactors which are based on pressurised heavy water reactor technology. Scientists and engineers of the NPC have been operating nuclear power stations in India safely. The country has mastered the safety-related technology, the sources said.

The Indian nuclear power programme, which is being implemented by NPC is primarily based on the PHWR [pressurized heavy water reactor] technology. Since the two reactors at Tawaibhata based on PHWR were constructed with Canadian assistance in the late 1960s, the technology has been mastered by India and the subsequent commercial nuclear power reactors at Kalpakkam, Narora and Kakrapara were designed and constructed by NPC. Most of the equipment and components were also fabricated in the country with the assistance of Indian companies, the sources said.

Over the last 25 years, the safety record of Indian reactors has been very good and have had an accident-free operation and safety record fully meeting the international safety standards laid down by the International Atomic Energy Agency, the sources said. While reacting to a report in the media of a US threat, attributed to a senior official of the US nuclear regulatory commission. [sentence as published] The first two commercial reactors constructed at Tarapur, with the US cooperation, are also performing satisfactorily, even though US stopped supplying fuel after 1974. These two units have been operating for the last 20 years without any cooperation from the US, based on totally indigenous efforts. The Tarapur station can continue to operate safely till the end of its economical life with indigenous efforts, the sources said.

Allaying the fear that India would suffer if US banned export of the technology, they pointed out that a delegation of the US nuclear regulatory commission only recently visited some of the commercial power reactors in India during February this year. This delegation appreciated the safe and satisfactory operation of nuclear power reactors in India.

Islamic Party Blamed for Attack on Official

BK2405150395 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1430 GMT 24 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Jammu and Kashmir Government has held the workers of Jamaat-i-Islami responsible for the attack on the pradesh [state] Congress-I chief, Mr. Ghulam Rasul Kar, at Charar Sharif yesterday. An official release in Srinagar today said that Mr. Kar was attacked by a group of Jamaat-i-Islami workers when he visited Charar Sharif to offer prayers at the mausoleum of Sufi saint Sheikh Nuruddin Wali. Mr. Kar sustained head injuries in the attack.

Several political parties, including National Conference, pradesh Congress-I, CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist], CPI, and Janata Dal have condemned the attack.

Meanwhile, four militants — including a self-styled deputy district commander — was killed in Kashmir Valley since last evening. The security forces apprehended seven militants and recovered large quantity of arms and ammunition.

UK Envoy Briefed on Pakistan's Kashmir 'Game Plan'

BK2505040995 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 25 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The British high commissioner, Mr. Nicholas Fenn, who is on a visit to Jammu and Kashmir, met a number of delegations of political parties in Jammu yesterday. The delegations said that Pakistan has been helping militants not only in India, but also in some other countries. They demanded the world community to declare Pakistan a terrorist state.

Talking to the visiting dignitary, the Jammu and Kashmir governor, General Rao, said that Pakistan has inducted foreign mercenaries into the state after it found the local militants unable to sustain militancy. Gen. Rao said people in the valley have seen through the Pakistan game plan and they have been providing useful information to security forces against the militants.

Mr. Nicholas Fenn is due to visit migrants camps today before leaving for the Kashmir valley.

Forces Claim Pakistan Advising Kashmir Militants

BK2505085795 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 25 May 95 p 9

[Report by K.P. Nayar]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] New Delhi — Security forces in Jammu and Kashmir have intercepted messages from across the border asking militants and Pakistan-trained mercenaries to occupy religious places.

According to highly placed government sources here dealing with Kashmir, security around mosques and shrines has been stepped up following the interception of these messages.

Pakistan's advice to militants to carry out more Charar Sharif type operations in the Valley is being interpreted here as evidence of Islamabad's determination to stop elections in Kashmir.

Restoration of the political process, leading to a representative government in Kashmir will deal a serious blow not only to Pakistan's potential to internationalise the problems with India, but also to sustain militancy at the present level.

Hence the urgency of disturbing any effort to hold elections in the state. Government assessments here of the post-Charar developments suggest that Pakistani calculations of derailing the political process in Kashmir have gone awry with New Delhi intensifying its efforts to hold elections in the state.

One message intercepted by security agencies asked militants and mercenaries to commit acts of blasphemy such as desecrating holy books. Such acts will be attributed to the Indian "occupation" forces since no one in the Valley will believe that their fellow Muslims will commit such outrage, the message from across the border reasoned.

The government fears that the Hazratbal mosque in Srinagar may one again be targeted by militants in view of the publicity that such an operation will give those who want to disrupt the political process.

Sources said security had been tightened around Hazratbal following the interception of these messages.

Intelligence information based on these intercepts and other sources suggest that a group of Afghan mercenaries crossed into Kashmir through the Pir Panjal ranges on the border with specific plans to commit acts of blasphemy and vandalism at places of worship, which would inflame religious passion in India.

Pakistan evidently believes that it is necessary now to unite the diverse militant groups in the Valley urgently on the single platform of preventing the elections. Islamabad reckons that this can only be done by exploiting religious feelings to its advantage.

*Annual Defense Ministry Report Reviewed

95AS0381A Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 5 Apr 95 p 8

[Unattributed article: "Report Cautions India on Maintaining Defence Capability"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] New Delhi, April 4 — Ground realities in the Asian region dictate that it is "essential that India maintains a sufficiently strong defence capability to safeguard its national interests," the Ministry of Defence has said — and perhaps for the first time it has expanded its area of concern beyond the traditional Afghanistan-Pakistan-China-Myanmar contour to include the Central Asian Republics.

The Ministry's Annual Report for 1994-95, which was released here today, notes that despite a recent improvement in the regional security environment, the "potential for turbulence" still exists. "Sudden developments, can upset this stability and result in adverse consequences in our neighbourhood."

"India is determined to do all it can to help ensure a secure environment in Asia which will allow its economic development to proceed unimpeded. At the same time, it will have to remain prepared to counter developments adverse to its own security and development. For that it is essential that India maintains a sufficiently strong defence capability" says the key chapter on the National Security Environment.

Pakistan, quite clearly remains, the major security threat and it is in the context of that country's actions that the report brings the CAR on to the Indian radar screen. After outlining the scenario there, the report points to Pakistan's efforts at playing a major role in Central Asia.

While it states that such efforts "have not been successful so far" the report sounds a note of caution, "but the possibility of Islamabad attempting to meddle in the regions remains, especially if opportunities present themselves. Developments in the Central Asian Republics will deserve to be closely monitored from the point of view of India's national security."

The security needs of India's western flank, the report says, has been "highlighted" by the "unrelenting support," material and otherwise, to Kashmir terrorists and separatist militants. "Pakistan's low-cost proxy war through a sustained propaganda offensive, as well as its attempt to internationalize the Kashmir issue by focussing on alleged human rights violations is a function of its domestic political instability and ulterior political/territorial objectives vis-a-vis India."

"Pakistan's support to subversive and terrorist elements directed against India is the root cause of tension in our bilateral relations. It has been breeding, abetting and extending support to terrorism in J & K and Punjab through organizing training camps in Pakistan/POK [Pakistan Occupied Kashmir]."

"Pakistan has also been extending support to subversive elements in the north-eastern States of India through its Inter-Services Intelligence. Investigations connected with the Bombay blasts indicate Pakistan's organized support and involvement in the planning and execution of these terrorist acts."

Dealing with China, the report lists the interaction at the political and military levels and stresses the "positive" effect of the deliberations of the Joint Working Group. Additional confidence building measures were also being discussed to reduce tensions.

While drawing attention to China's modernization of its forces, the report also points to Beijing being "engaged in building strategic road links from its border towns to rail-heads and sea ports in Myanmar." It is helping to develop these ports. The report mentions Chinese military supplies to Pakistan, which it describes as "a cause of concern."

Turning to Myanmar, the report says that Indian insurgent groups in the north-east use the border areas for training, sanctuary, and acquisition of weaponry. Though relations with Myanmar have improved and ways are being examined for better border management the outcome will "naturally depend on the effective control of the Government of Myanmar on its western border areas."

Looking further westward, the report says that "the continuing instability and civil war in Afghanistan is a source of anxiety. It is not in India's interest that a neighbouring State should have prolonged instability."

While expressing general satisfaction with security conditions elsewhere in the regional, and on the wider international platform too, the report reiterates that "the benefits of the end of the Cold War have yet to become apparent globally."

*Border Trade With Burma Inaugurated 13 Apr

95AS0376A Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 14 Apr 95 p 6

[Article by Yambem Laba: "India, Myanmar Trade Goodwill"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tamu (Myanmar), April 13. — Border trade between India and Myanmar was inaugurated yesterday afternoon amid a vibrant and colourful display of Myanmarese culture and a ceremony which was conducted with military precision.

Intricately decorated welcome arches were constructed for the Indian Commerce Minister, Mr P. Chidambaram, who had crossed over from the Indian side through Moreh. Earlier, accompanied by the Myanmarese Trade Minister, Lt-Gen. Tun Kyi, he had flown in to Imphal from Delhi.

The air was festive. All the roads to Tamu, where the official ceremony was held, were lined with colourful flags. All the buildings in the town were freshly painted. That yesterday's function coincided with the national water festival added to the gaiety. It was definitely an important day for the Myanmarese. And they were determined to make it a success.

Dance troupes representing various ethnic groups first put up their show. There were bamboo dancers, spear-wielding Hemi Nagas and graceful Burmese dancers.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr Chidambaram said that the Government of India as well as its Myanmarese counterpart had, at last decided to recognize the historical trade ties between their people. He urged the Myanmarese Government to channel its teak exports through Tamu and Moreh. He also requested the Government to allow India to import products from a third country through Tamu and Moreh.

The import of agricultural produce from Myanmar, the Minister said, would attract only five per cent import duty. Initially, a ceiling of 50,000 metric tons of rice per year had been fixed.

The Government of India has identified 22 items to be imported through Myanmar. To begin with, the RBI [Reserve Bank of India[has agreed to allow Indian goods to be exported first to Myanmar so that the benefits could be availed by its people first.

Lt-Gen. Tun Kyi said the opening of the border trade would further strengthen the friendship between India and Myanmar.

Earlier there was a similar function on the Indian side at Moreh. In sharp contrast to the function on the Myanmarese side, the Indian affair was chaotic and a great diplomatic fiasco.

Initially, the function was to have been held at the New Customs Complex. But the venue was changed at the last minute to the MSRTC [expansion not given] Complex. There were not enough chairs and the Press was ignored. Mr Chidambaram was accompanied by the Myanmarese Trade Minister and the Manipur Chief Minister and Industries Minister.

A pole supporting the shamiana became loose and had to be held in place by the Industries Commissioner. But the biggest diplomatic debacle took place when the Manipur Chief Secretary, after the speech of the Commerce Minister and the Chief Minister began giving the vote of thanks marking the end of the function.

The Chief Secretary was ordered to stop by Mr Chidambaram and directed him to invite the Myanmarese Trade Minister to address the gathering.

Iran

Daily: Christopher Responsible for U.S. 'Defeats'

*LD2505133595 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian
1140 GMT 25 May 95*

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI daily has devoted its daily political column to the appointment of the leader of the CIA. [passage omitted]

The writer advises the U.S. leaders that the United States' repeated political defeats last year is partly due to the incompetency of [Warren] Christopher, who has presented the ugly face of U.S. policy to the world and has made other nations humiliate and detest the U.S. nation. If the U.S. Government wants to take serious action to restructure and clean up the administration in that country, it should make an urgent decision concerning Christopher, for the continuation of this person's policy in the post of secretary of state will not bring about anything but abjectness and hardship to the United States.

Khamene'i: Superpowers Promote 'Tyranny, Unbelief'

*LD2405143995 Tehran IRNA in English
1352 GMT 24 May 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, May 24, IRNA — Leader of the Islamic revolution, Ayatollah Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, said here on Wednesday [24 May] that the present era is the time that the superpowers endeavor to lead the entire world to prevalence of tyranny, unbelief and infidelity.

In a meeting with a group of preachers, he said, "at a time when a tyrant superpower makes every effort to impose a tyrannical sovereignty upon the entire world misusing international regulations and schemes and to widen the scope of injustice and discrimination under the pretext of defending human rights, a faithful nation managed to revive Islam and introduce a righteous governing system on the basis of Islam." The leader further added that thanks to the blessings of Ashura, 10th of the Islamic month of Moharram, the day in which the Muslim's third imam, Imam Hoseyn (AS) was martyred in an unequalled battle with the tyrannical power.

The leader said that the late founder of the Islamic Republic, Imam Khomeyni, was a follower of Imam Hoseyn (AS) and the philosophy of Ashura. The leader told the visitors that now all should follow the notion of Ashura in order to prepare the ground for the advent of the ultimate leader of the time, Vali-ye Asr (May God hasten his reappearance).

The leader called on the preacher, Friday prayer leaders and scholars of the theological centers to express the essence of the notion of Ashura during the mourning ceremonies held annually to pay tribute to the Muslims third imam.

The present world is longing for reality, those who were in touch with the Western culture believe that the learned class of the Western civilization are thirsty for Islam, said the leader of the Islamic revolution.

Official Cites 'Positive' Outcome of Iraq Talks

*LD2505105295 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian
0930 GMT 25 May 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] The senior adviser of our country's Foreign Ministry termed as positive the outcome of his talks with Iraqi officials. Mr. 'Ali Khorram, on his return from Baghdad, in an exclusive interview with our correspondent, said the following: At our meeting with the Iraqi deputy foreign minister, we discussed the formation of five committees to review and remove existing obstacles standing in the way of the expansion of relations between the two countries. UN Resolution 598 was also discussed.

Referring to the central points of the talks conducted during this trip, Mr Khorram said:

[Begin Khorram recording] The discussions held in these committees and the talks with the foreign minister of Iraq could be said to have had the following results: Concerning the POW's, we both agreed that each side should compile all their claims concerning the POW's and the missing-in-action, backed by the evidence, and that these should be exchanged at a fixed date under the auspices of the Foreign Ministry. This would act as an opportunity for the two sides to assess the compiled lists and the evidence and to present these to each other again at another fixed date.

This plan was prepared and it was decided that it should be endorsed by the two countries' highest authorities. Once the plan is approved, it will be carried out. If this takes place, we hope that we shall be able to prepare all the required material on our dear POW's, at one go, pass these on to the Iraqi side, obtain the results, and, God willing, thus relieve the families of the POW's from their anxieties. [end recording]

Our country's Foreign Ministry adviser added: In accordance with this same agreement, it was decided that the committees set up to search for the corpses of each country should continue their work.

Concerning relations between the two countries, he stressed: Iran and Iraq have common problems and mutual interests, and Iraq is very interested in expanding relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran, and in this context, a delegation from Iraq is due to travel to Tehran soon to follow up with the talks.

Iraq Urged Against Being 'International Pariah'

LD2505142195 Tehran IRNA in English
1359 GMT 25 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, May 25, IRNA — It is time for Iraq to listen to the voice of reason and stop being an international pariah, the English language daily KEYHAN international said editorially on the anniversary of the 'Beit al- Moqaddas' operations which led to the liberation of Khorramshahr from the Iraqi occupation.

The daily described the liberation of the southwestern city on May 24, 1982 as "a golden page in the history of the Islamic Revolution" and "a crowning moment for the heroic defenders of Islamic Iran."

"On the international front, although Khorramshahr brought out in the open the financial and the military backers of Saddam Husayn's invasion, the victory and the valour of the Basijis (Iranian revolutionary militia) was too strong a force for mere material superiority to stem the tide of the war."

Khorramshahr which had turned into a rubble by the Iraqis, the daily said, is being given a new life for over rials 307 billion have been spent to reconstruct the war-striken city.

The port facilities are once again in operation and calls are underway to declare it a free trade zone in view of its proximity to Iraq and Kuwait, the paper said.

KEYHAN international said the atmosphere provided for cooperation would let neighboring countries try investment in the area. "Kuwait has undoubtedly matured over the war years, especially after the rude shock it got from the Iraqi occupation,"it said. "It is now for Iraq to listen to the voice of reason and stop being an international pariah," it added.

KEYHAN international went on proposing that "once Iraq agrees to remove all obstacles to the dredging of the Arvand road, Khorramshahr and the facilities it enjoys, can turn out to be an economic lifeline for an Iraq whose infrastructure lies in total shambles because of the American war."

Official Comments on Turkish Allegations, Ties

LD2205090895 Tehran IRNA in English
0825 GMT 22 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, May 22, IRNA — Iran's [words indistinct] allegations by certain Turkish papers on the stationing of anti-Turkish Government forces in Iran.

Speaking to the morning daily IRAN, printed Monday [22 May], an Interior Ministry official said that arrangements have been made in coordination with Foreign Ministry according to which under no circumstances opponents of the Turkish Government could enter the Iranian territory.

To this end, he said, the Turkish Government has also had good cooperation with Iran.

He termed Tehran-Ankara ties as very friendly saying that mutual ties had never been as good in the past.

Certain Turkish newspapers recently reported that a number of Turkish anti-government guerrillas have entered the Iranian territory after the military operations by the Turkish Army against their positions in northern Iraq.

'Source' Denies Claims

LD2205212195 Tehran IRNA in English
2054 GMT 22 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, May 23, IRNA — An informed source at the Foreign Ministry here on Monday [22 May] night categorically refuted the claims of a segment of the Turkish press on the presence of forces of Turkey's Kurdish Workers Party (PKK) on Iranian soil.

He stressed that the Islamic Republic of Iran lays special emphasis on "good neighbourly" ties with Turkey.

Recently some Turkish dailies had alleged that PKK dissidents were based in Iran.

Relations With Asian Countries Viewed

Borujerdi: 'Serious' About Ties

LD2505100495 Tehran IRNA in English 0923 GMT 25 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, May 25, IRNA — Deputy Foreign Minister for Asia-Oceanea Affairs, 'Ala'eddin Borujerdi Wednesday [24 May] stressed that Iran was serious in expanding its relations with Asian countries.

In an interview with the English language daily TEHRAN TIMES, Borujerdi said that Iran-China, Iran-Japan, Iran-Pakistan, and Iran-Thailand joint economic commissions would meet soon, which indicate the expansion of Tehran's ties with the Asian countries.

Borujerdi who has recently retuned from Tokyo where he took part in the Iran-Japan joint economic commission, added that Iran's relations with Japan have reached a practical stage with several agreements already signed.

The Japanese officials welcomed expansion of trade with Iran, he said adding that in the future Japan may even join the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO).

Turning to Tehran-Beijing ties, he said that the mutual relations are expanding and that at present the Chinese are implementing about 20 projects in Iran.

"The Chinese officials announced readiness to buy more oil from Iran when I met them in a short layover in Beijing," he added.

Vice-President for Executive Affairs Hamid Mirzadeh arrived in Beijing Thursday to take part in the Iran-China joint economic commission to start the same day.

Minister of Post, Telephone and Telegraph, Seyyed Mohammad Reza Gharazi, is currently in Thailand attending Iran-Thailand joint economic commission while Minister of Roads and Transportation, Akbar Torkan, is in Islamabad.

Radio Views Ties With Thailand

NC2505065595 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0345 GMT 25 May 95

[Commentary by the News Commentary and Research Group]

[FBIS Translated Text] The fourth joint economic session of the Islamic Republic of Iran and Thailand starts work today. This session will examine the two countries' cooperation in various fields, particularly joint cooperation in Central Asia, the export of Iran's nonoil products to Thailand, and the potential for joint investments.

The joint Iranian-Thai economic session is actually the gauge that regulates Tehran-Bangkok relations. Bangkok is considered to be one of Iran's important trade partners, both within the ASEAN and on its own. This southeast Asian country's significance is growing daily because of its strategic position, political stability, and economic achievements. Thailand, with its 60-million population, has one of the highest economic growth rates and is second to Indonesia for economic potential and second to Singapore for trade in the region.

This situation has compelled Bangkok officials to establish extensive relations with various countries. But the economic recession in countries that are Thailand's major trade partners, that is, Japan and the European Community, as well as strong competition in the world market are two major elements that have made Thai officials focus on Iran.

Iran can meet some of Thailand's needs but its consumer market is also very significant for Bangkok. More important still is that because of its special geographic situation, making it a bridge between Europe and Asia, particularly Central Asia, Iran enjoys a special place in Thailand's diplomacy.

It seems the facilities extended by the Islamic Republic of Iran for the transit of goods from southeast Asia to Central Asia form one of the major incentives for regional countries to expand their relations with Iran. The construction of the Bafq-Bandar-e 'Abbas Railway, which has facilitated the transit of goods to Central Asia, exemplifies such facilities.

Political stability in the countries in which they invest is important for the developing countries. The experience of the Persian Gulf war has proven the vulnerability of investing in the Arab countries of this region, as Thailand and others have found. This is why Bangkok officials are trying to invest, jointly and individually, in a stable country like Iran.

DPRK Group Assails 'U.S. Intrigues'

LD2405191795 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 24 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The North Korea-Iran Friendship Society has sent a message to President Hashemi-Rafsanjani expressing solidarity with the government and people of Iran in the wake of U.S. trade sanctions. The message states: U.S. intrigues against Iran have been opposed and condemned by peace-loving people everywhere in the world who value independence, and justice will never desert the Iranian people.

British 'Divide and Rule' Foreign Policy Viewed

LD2505133495 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1130 GMT 25 May 95

[Unattributed commentary]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd, in his latest comments made on his government's policy on the Persian Gulf, has said: Britain is still concerned over the region's security and the British Government considers both Iran and Iraq a threat to the region.

These remarks, which have been raised simultaneously with the Kuwaiti amir's visit to London in a BBC interview with the British foreign secretary, are suggestive of the fact that London officials are still seeking to continue their hegemonistic and colonial policies in the region's smaller states through resorting to the out-of-date ploys of falsification and creation of a propaganda atmosphere.

Douglas Hurd's comments, based on the claim pertaining to Iran's support of terrorism to mar the process of the so called Mid-East peace negotiations and not the disputes between Iran and the United Arab Emirates, can be taken as a menace to the security in the Persian region and are actually tools employed in the deepening the foreigners' dominance over the fate of the regional Arab states. Anyhow, sky-rocketing interests proceedings from the U.S. and the UK's arms sales to the regional Arab states and their constant presence in the region, constitutes just part of the interests gained in the Persian Gulf region by the alien powers, including Britain.

Undoubtedly the Western states, in a bid to maintain their illegitimate interests, are in need of an excuse or pretense to enable them to justify their contradictory policies in the region. In a broader sense it has to be said that Mr. Douglas Hurd can take serious the possible threats in the Persian Gulf region only under the conditions when the stability and security in the region have only been realized in the light of the regional states' collaboration within the framework of respect for mutual interests. That is because in this case it is the illegitimate interests of the foreign states which are in jeopardy, and not the region's security.

At any rate, the comments made by the British foreign secretary must be solely interpreted with the same long known proverb in the British political lexicon which says: Divide and rule.

Funding of Reconstruction in Khorramshahr Viewed

LD2305195395 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 23 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Over 120 billion rials worth of credit has been envisaged this year [21 March 95 - 20 March 96] for the completion of reconstruction projects in Khorramshahr.

Vice President [Hamid Mirzadeh] announced this today saying: Over 130 billion rials has already been spent on the completion of infrastructure projects. Mr. Mirzadeh said the reconstruction of over 34,000 houses in Khorramshahr has now ended, adding that the remaining 12,000 houses will be reconstructed by the end of this year. Mr. Mirzadeh, who is also the official in charge of war- damaged regions, also said that the government will be spending over 87 billion rials to compensate for the losses inflicted on the inhabitants of Khorramshahr. He added that over 370.570 billion rials has been spent until now on rebuilding the infrastructure of the city.

Mr. Mirzadeh referred to the reconstruction of Khorramshahr port and said that in 1373 [year ending 20 March 95], 400,000 tonnes of goods were imported via this port.

IRIB Program Discusses Khorramshahr Anniversary

LD2305200995

[FBIS Editorial Report] Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian at 1734 GMT on 23 May carries a 73-minute recorded program commemorating the 13th anniversary on 24 May of the liberation of Khorramshahr. To mark the occasion, the station reconstructs the events that led to the retaking of the city from the Iraqis. This is done through accounts of former combatants shown speaking over video footage and archival pictures of the war and of Khorramshahr in particular.

Combatants are shown talking about their resistance, their withdrawal, and their feelings as they advanced toward the city to liberate it. Women also remember the night before the major battle and their joy and pride on seeing the triumphant return of their sons and husbands.

These interviews are interspersed with archival footage of the war: the destroyed city of Khorramshahr, its port, and surrounding districts; young combatants chanting religious slogans, tying green headbands around their heads and preparing for combat; missile launchers in desert landscape; bodies of enemy troops lying by the roadside; and scenes of fighting and devastating destruction.

An 18-minute interlude is then followed by the second part of the program. During this segment, music over archival footage and stills are shown of war scenes, wounded and dead soldiers, women, and children, street fighting in Khorramshahr, and more scenes of destruction and fighting. The program ends by showing the end of fighting and the return of some of Khorramshahr's inhabitants.

Military Maneuvers Conclude in Khorramshahr

LD2405124595 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 24 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] On the [13th] anniversary of the liberation of Khorramshahr, the concluding phase of the Dawn-4 [Fajr-4] maneuvers was held in the Khorramshahr operational region.

[Correspondent] The units participating in these maneuvers were the 7th Armored Division of the Lord of the Era, the Hidden Imam, of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps; the 45th Commando Brigade; an airborne division of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Army; the Guards Corps Aviation Battalion; and basij [mobilization] volunteers of Khuzestan Province.

During these maneuvers the courageous warriors — backed by heavy artillery fire from Islam's mighty combatants, armored and the air defense units, missile launchers, tanks, antitank weapons and other sophisticated weapons — crossed the artificially created obstacles and captured the positions of a hypothetical enemy. After mopping-up operations in the newly captured grounds, the warriors of Islam continued their advance and entered the city of blood, Khorramshahr.

Once again the city witnessed the revival of the eternal victory, the heroic liberation of Khorramshahr by the warriors of Islam. The people of the city welcomed the warriors of Islam's army by sacrificing lambs, by donating candies among the public, and by chanting the slogan "God is the Greatest." The inhabitants honored the memory of this epic and paid tribute to the warriors of Islam's army who sacrificed their lives in the Beyt ol-Moqaddas [Jerusalem] operations, leading to the liberation of the heroic city of Khorramshahr.

The city's warriors of Islam gathered outside the city's congregational mosque, and a veteran who was involved in liberation of Khorramshahr hoisted the flag of the Islamic Republic of Iran on the dome of the mosque. This was reminiscent of the events on the actual day of Khorramshahr's liberation.

A number of state and military officials were present at the celebrations. Others present included the honorable families of the martyrs and those missing-in-action, the war disabled, the freed prisoners of war, the personnel engaged in the maneuvers, and various strata of the Khorramshahr people.

Addressing the gathering, Brigadier General Rahim Safavi, deputy commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, paid tribute to the combatants. He said the Khorramshahr victory was a turning point in the history of mankind and particularly in the history of the Islamic revolution.

This was a report by the Central News Unit from Abadan.

Deputies Must Watch Government Company Budgets

95LA0214B Tehran RESALAT in Persian 22 Feb 95 p 15

[FBIS Translated Text] Economic Affairs Division — In a true expert study, the roots of inflation and high prices are shown to be caused by reduced production and its lack of parity with demand. This causes high prices.

Reza 'Abdollahi, deputy from Mahneshan and member of the Majles Plan and Budget Commission, announced this in an interview with RESALAT's correspondent. He said: Increased production depends on various factors and parameters, the most important of which are investment security and a commitment to investment security, so there will not be a sense of danger regarding the way taxes and other matters are handled.

He added: Currently, when an investor and producer compares himself with other revenue-generating sectors such as services and commerce, he concludes that they have more ease and peace of mind. There is therefore little inclination to invest in the production sector.

In the same regard he added: Today there are problems with regard to the Labor Law, and verdicts are being issued which are at odds with the spirit of production and investment. If we are committed to guaranteeing investments, this will ultimately benefit the working class because instead of putting his capital into brokers and middlemen, the investor will get more into the labor market thus creating more employment, and there will be incomes for individuals.

'Abdollahi noted: If judgments are fair, if security is created for investment, and if employer and employee treat each other fairly, this will benefit both sides and also production.

The member of the Plan and Budget Commission said that valuing the culture of production in society is one of the factors in increasing production. He said: With respect to culture in society, great respect and value must be given to someone who engages in production. A producer must not be seen as a profiteer and a plunderer.

He added: After the triumph of the revolution, with the harsh slogans coming mostly from the small leftist groups, the point of view came to exist that the people who have factories or work places are enemies of the people and society. Yet society needs employment, and the necessary support must be given to creating a sound economy.

Continuing, the deputy from Mahneshan added: Increasing technological capability is another factor in increasing production. The universities and research centers must provide applied training so the graduate will be effective in the area of production and will not just be satisfied to obtain credentials.

'Abdollahi noted: Although much investment was made in the areas of education and training and higher education after the triumph of the revolution, this has had little visible effect on GNP and production growth.

The member of the Plan and Budget Commission emphasized that during the debates during the second consultation on the Budget in the days to come, the Majles must create the necessary conditions for increasing production by passing the appropriate laws. He noted: Sufficient attention has not yet been given to this matter. The Majles must put all of its effort into increasing production, to anchor and reduce inflation. In this regard, laws and regulations that facilitate and regulate this need will ultimately be counter-inflationary. Most of the attention must be given to the production of goods needed by the people.

Mr. 'Abdollahi noted the need to control expenses and added: One public problem is that so far serious attention has not been given in the budget bills to the expenses of government organizations and companies. There is the basic objection that the Second Five-Year Plan and the nation's annual budgets are not precise enough on expenses.

In the same regard he said: In our country little attention has been given to making the best use and full utilization of existing capacities and manpower, and these factors dissipate the expenditures needed for investment in the producing sector. Expenditures in the private and government sectors must be reduced through proper planning, and these savings must be invested and spent on production with appropriate management.

The member of the Plan and Budget Commission cited growth in currency in circulation as one of the factors fueling inflation. He said: The most effective way to anchor inflation is to guide existing and unused currency in circulation into production activities.

Currently, since the commercial and service sectors are the most profitable, the banks want to make their means available to these sectors.

He added: In the budget debate, the Majles can approve supplementary profits for the banks, thereby laying the groundwork for guiding the banking system's means into production.

Mr. 'Abdollahi discussed the issue of expenditures, with which the Majles will be dealing in the coming days. He said: The Majles must have great sensitivity about reducing expenditures in the government companies and organizations and making them reasonable. To some extent they have hidden these expenditures from the Majles. The government organizations are asked to act reasonably on their expenditures and to put the country's interest ahead of those of their own organization.

In conclusion he criticized the procedures for considering the Budget Bill. He said: Under the current guidelines, where the budget is considered in two consultations, the Majles does not have the chance to consider the budget carefully, and it does not have the ability to maneuver. These guidelines must be amended. The basic problem in the procedure for deliberations lies in the debate on expenditures. Under the current guidelines the power to act, initiate, and deal with the expenditures has been taken away from the Majles and the Plan and Budget Commission.

To get away from the current situation, the guidelines must go back to the way they were in 1370 [21 March 1991-20 March 1992] and 1371 [21 March 1992-20 March 1993].

Export of Detergents, Other Products Detailed

95LA0227D Tehran RESALAT in Persian 15 Apr 95 p 11

[FBIS Translated Text] **Tehran, IRNA—The deputy minister of commerce said: The level of export of various detergents last year exceeded $20 million, which marks an increase of about 130 percent.**

Engineer Sa'idlu, who was speaking at the opening of the sixth exhibition specializing in hygiene and cosmetic products and detergents, added: Considering the untapped capacities in these industries, the possibility exists of increasing the exports of these items this year at a minimum of $50 million.

According to him, some of the detergents and cosmetics manufactured in Iran enjoy quite a reputation abroad; in fact, certain products are imitated by rival countries.

Sa'idlu added: At the present time, detergents and cosmetic and hygiene items are exported to Kuwait, Bahrain, the Central Asian republics, Bulgaria, Russia, and a number of other countries.

Unemployment Drops From 15.9 to 11.4 Percent

95LA0227A Tehran RESALAT in Persian 15 Apr 95 p 11

[FBIS Translated Text] **Tehran, IRNA—Based on official data of the Iranian Statistics Center, the absolute number of unemployed people seeking jobs between 1365 and 1370 [21 March 1986-20 March 1992] reached from 1.8 million to 1.64 million people, and the level of unemployment during this period decreased from 14.2 percent to 11.2 percent.**

According to the official census, the population of the country reached from 49.5 million people in 1365 [21 March 1986-20 March 1987] to 55.8 million people in 1370 [21 March 1991-20 March 1992], and the number of employed people from 11 million in 1365 to more than 13 million in 1370.

Also, the rate of unemployment decreased from 15.9 percent at the start of the Five-Year Developmental Plan to 11.4 percent at the end of the plan. Dr. Seyyed Reza Mo'ini, the specialist in charge of manpower data of the Iranian Statistics Center, said: In the population of our country 10 years old and above, every employed person carries the economic burden of two people over the age of 10 and one person under the age of 10. Hence, in Iran every employed person must provide for the economic needs of approximately three other people as well.

According to him, the level of unemployment in 1372 [21 March 1993-20 March 1994] reached 6.5 percent. In other words, the absolute figure of unemployed people seeking jobs decreased from 1.6 million in 1370 to less than 1 million in 1372.

Pakistan

Reaction to U.S. Moves on Pressler Ammendment

Spokesman Welcomes Development

BK2405155195 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 25 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The U.S. Foreign Relations Committee has agreed to modify the Pressler law so that Pakistan will be eligible for economic and humanitarian assistance along with military training. According to an APP report, the amendment, introduced by Senator Hank Brown, was considered by the full committee while deliberating legislation to authorize foreign assistance spending for FY 1996-97. The bill was adopted by a near-unanimous bipartisan vote of 15 to 1. The amendment also releases Pakistan from paying for the storage of the withheld equipment and allows for the return of the repaired equipment, provided that it has not been further upgraded or modernized.

Prior to the adoption of the amendment, the committee heard Senator Larry Pressler's views. Senator Pressler opposed the transfer of the planes to Pakistan, but conceded that there has been unfairness toward Pakistan and that the money it paid for the equipment should be returned.

A Foreign Office spokesman described the U.S. Foreign Relations Committee's move to amend the Pressler law as a step toward repealing the law, under which sanctions are imposed on economic and military assistance to Pakistan. Talking to APP in Islamabad today, the spokesman said the step is a positive reaction to Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's effective and successful projection of Pakistan's viewpoint to both houses of the U.S. Congress during her U.S. visit. He said the U.S. draft legislation takes account of Pakistan's concerns. The spokesman hoped that further progress will be made in this connection.

The spokesman said Pakistan and the United States enjoy excellent relations, but the Pressler law has affected these relations. He added that the United States now realizes that the Pressler law has been unable to achieve its objective in connection with nuclear nonproliferation in the region.

Radio Hails 'Positive Development'

BK2505045095 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1600 GMT 24 May 95

[Commentary by Shafqat Munir]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] As a follow-up of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's visit to Washington last month and her meetings with President Clinton and Congressmen, the U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee has voted to modify the Pressler Amendment under which Pakistan will be eligible for economic and humanitarian assistance. It will also permit Pakistan to receive some economic benefits, get back defense equipment it had sent for repairs against payment and not to pay the storage cost for the undelivered F-16's. The proposed amendment introduced by Senator Hank Brown was considered and voted upon by the full committee while deliberating upon legislation to authorize foreign assistance spending for the FY [financial year] 1996-97. This was adopted by a near unanimous bipartisan vote of 15 to one. The decision of the Foreign Relations

Committee, which also authorizes Pakistan to get facilities and assistance in peacekeeping operations and antiterrorism efforts, will now be moved to the Congress for its final approval. However, the almost consensus bipartisan approach toward modifying the Pressler law will yield positive response from the Congress as both the ruling Democratic and Republic parties have expressed their resentment over the country's specific law. Prior to the adoption of the amendment, the committee also heard Senator Larry Pressler's views. he opposed the delivery of planes to Pakistan, but conceded that there was an inequity with Pakistan and that Islamabad should be reimbursed the money it has paid for the repairs of the equipment.

The move has come at a time when the Indian external affairs minister, now in Washington, was lobbying against giving any concessions to Pakistan. But contrary to the Indian designs, the U.S. Senate's committee has voted for an important amendment to give concessions to Pakistan. The purpose behind the move was, as told to the committee by Senator Brown, that they wanted to clarify restrictions on assistance to Pakistan and for other purposes. In fact, this is the part of a candid realization by no less than the U.S. President, Bill Clinton, himself on the 11th of last month in which he had said that the United States values relations with Pakistan. Mr. Clinton had said that he will ask the Congress to show some flexibility in the Pressler Amendment so that they can have some economic and military cooperation and to consult with Pakistan about the F-16 deal. While having one-to-one meeting with Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, President Clinton had conceded that the impact of the Pressler Amendment is directed only against Pakistan and what happened was not fair to Pakistan. He had also clearly stated that it is not right for us to keep the money and the equipment and finally he had told the policymakers in the United States that Washington will not abandon Pakistan.

From Islamabad's point of view this is a positive development and a step forward in future cooperation between the two countries and, of course, the realization of what President Clinton had admitted during prime minister's visit to the United States. Under the U.S. Congress procedures, now the amendment approved to modify the Pressler law by the committee will be followed by a report from President Clinton to the appropriate committees of the Congress within 30 days of the enactment of this act. The administration's plan to be implemented during FY 1996-97 to fulfill U.S. obligations to Pakistan under contracts and agreements for the sale or transfer of military equipment or technology will also be underlined in the report to be presented by the U.S. President. Despite India's hectic lobbying in Washington, the U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee's vote to modify the Pressler law indicates that U.S. leadership is willing to do something to remove the remaining hindrances that block the progress of commercial, political and diplomatic ties with Pakistan. It is hoped that both the countries would be able to further boost their bilateral relations when all the irritants are removed. It is also hoped that in future the U.S. Congress will move to resolve the delivery of F-16 issue or refund the money already paid for this deal.

Daily Views 'Partial Vindication'

BK2505052895 Islamabad THE NATION in English 25 Mar 95 p 6

[Editorial: "Pressler's Partial Rollback"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The US Senate Foreign Committee has voted by an overwhelming margin (14-2) [as published] to modify the Pressler Amendment and permit Pakistan to receive some economic assistance, get back defence equipment sent for repairs against payment, be relieved of storage charges and recover the money paid in advance for the undelivered F-16s, and be offered assistance in peacekeeping operations and anti-terrorism efforts. Although the proposed modification of the infamous Amendment explicitly rules out any military assistance, it may be taken as a positive outcome of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's Washington visit. In that sense, although it only addresses the across the board sanctions imposed under Pressler partially, it represents a relative freeing up of the log- jam in Pakistan-US relations which had soured the atmosphere since 1990. The committee system in the US is a powerful policy making instrument, whose recommendations usually reflect the sense of the House and are seldom overturned on the floor of Congress. It would appear therefore that Pakistan's lobbying efforts have borne fruit, since until recently the general view was that a sympathetic Democratic Administration inclined to help out Pakistan was hamstrung by the Republican majority in both Houses of Congress.

Despite the sense of satisfaction at the partial vindication of Pakistan's honour, however, the fact that no military supplies, especially the crucially needed strike force of F-16s, is in the offing in the conceivable future gives rise to the sobering thought that Pakistan's security concerns have failed to stir American perceptions and have not been addressed in the proposed modification. On the contrary, US non-proliferation concerns seem destined to override our defence compulsions and threat perceptions and pressure on the nuclear programme is therefore likely to continue unabated. Although it must have given Pakistanis cause for satisfaction that the author of the Amendment, Senior Larry Pressler himself had perforce to go along with the concessions being given to Pakistan, the whole experience of the Pressler Amendment and what it has meant for our interests could bear with some reflection. US Ambassador John Monjo has revealed that it was General Ziaul Haq who supported the bringing in of the Pressler Amendment, albeit in order, so it was argued at the time, to preempt harsher permanent sanctions against Pakistan on the question of its quest for a nuclear deterrant against nuclear-armed India. General Zia's regime trumpeted the "achievement" of having gained the "concession" via the Pressler Amendment that Pakistan would be spared sanctions so long as the US President certified every year that Pakistan did not have, nor was developing nuclear weapons. That condition came a cropper in 1990 when the famous "red line" (i.e., assembly of the core of a nuclear weapon) was reportedly crossed and the certification became a casualty. Time has shown how much of a toll of Pakistan's interests has been taken by the country-specific law which, with hindsight, it could be argued, might have been avoided since Pakistan possessed far more leverage with the US at the time vis a vis the anti-Soviet struggle in Afghanistan. After all if General Zia could dismiss, in the early days of the Afghan resistance, the offer of a few hundred million dollars in aid by President Carter as "peanuts", why could not he have stood firm later and told the US in no uncertain terms where to get off, when the US was fully embroiled in the Afghan war and needed Pakistan's front-line status as a crucial element in its strategy? Whether this was possible or not can only be speculated on now, but the example of Pressler is a very good illustration of how dictators can mortgage the future of the country without so much as nod towards public opinion or the benefit of the best advice and wisdom available, denied to them since they tend to inherently rely on a narrow circle of partisan and even vested interests.

Defense Status, Indian 'Aggressive Aims' Viewed

BK2505021495 Lahore THE NATION HEADLINE NEWS SERVICE in English 1220 GMT 24 May 95

[Editorial from 23 May NATION: "Defence readiness" — received via Internet]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Defence sources have denied the report in the Indian Press that a major clash has caused the deaths of at least 60 Pakistani soldiers on Siachen Glacier. The report has not been confirmed by the Indian army and Defence Ministry. But the mere publication of the item is significant given the present state of tension between Pakistan and India after the Charar Sharif incident. The responsibility for that incident has absurdly been sought to be pinned on Pakistan by India, which of course Pakistan has dismissed with the contempt it deserves.

The fact remains, however, that Indian aggressive aims are reflected in the spate of propaganda emanating from New Delhi together with, much more ominously, the Indian troops build-up and movements on the borders.

To take stock of the situation, a meeting of the Defence Committee of the Cabinet reviewed the external and internal security situation.

Pakistan has been pinning so much hope on the mending of relations with the US that there appear to still persist illusions about what may be on offer in the forthcoming Pakistan-US Defence Consultative Group which has recently been revived. Any realistic assessment must take account of the fact that the US is developing a new relationship with India centred on economic interests, and is therefore unlikely to support Pakistan in its concerns vis a vis its neighbour.

Further, how can it be expected to 'come to our rescue' when the Pressler Amendment still exists? The defence preparedness of the country is hampered, in addition to the drying up of US military assistance and supplies, by the resource crunch. So while theoretically the Prime Minister is right in stating that Pakistan cannot rely on one source for it's defence needs, we perforce have to cut our coat to fit the cloth.

The armed forces, in the aftermath of the Charar Sharif outrage and India's sabre-rattling, according to some Press reports, are asking for an increase in the defence budget.

The question needs to be asked to what extent such an increase will enhance the perks and privileges of the Generals or actually procure much needed sophisticated weaponry? The real need of the hour is to increase our force de frappe. Had the government taken timely measures to bolster the economy, this would have been an easier task. As it is, the government has been at complete loggerheads with the local business community while running after the chimera of foreign investment in the shape of MoUs [memorandums of understanding]. The PM [prime minister], who refuses to accept that the country is in a recession, seems to think business confidence is divisible. A businessman is a businessman, Pakistani or foreign, and the latter will examine the investment prospects of a country from many angles before diverting what are today relatively scarce capital resources from one emerging market to another. If the local business community is unhappy with government policies, the foreign investor will revise his risk analysis concerning that country upwards. Law and order problems, especially in Karachi where the government refuses to budge from a self-inflicted paralysis, have further eroded confidence in the main commercial, industrial and business centre of the country. The Stock Exchange is virtually in free fall, wiping out billions of rupees worth of capitalisation. Can we say with confidence then that we have an economic base which is capable of supporting existing, let alone enhanced levels of defence spending?

This is not to suggest that defence needs be abandoned. Only that policies have to be geared to providing the wherewithal for a thriving economy which can then lend its shoulder to the defence effort.

Kashmir Leader Complains of Indian 'Threats'

BK2405164195 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1300 GMT 24 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] President of Azad Jammu and Kashmir Sardar Sikander Hayat Khan has called upon the civilized democratic countries to take note of the threats given to Pakistan and Azad Jammu and Kashmir by India. He also drew attention toward gross violations of human rights in the held valley, which include the systematic desecration and demolition of holy shrines and mosques. The president of Azad Jammu and Kashmir expressed these sentiments while talking to two separate delegations of the United States and Britain which called on him in Muzaffarabad. The American delegation was led by Political Bureau Chief Mr. Robert Simon [title as heard], while the British high commissioner, Christopher Macrae, headed the delegation from his country.

Sardar Sikander Hayat Khan said India, which has sent an additional 100,000 troops to the held valley, is bent upon finding a military solution of the longstanding problem. He said desecration of dargah [shrine] of Sheikh Nuruddin Wali and adjacent mosque as well as organized arsoning of the whole locality in Charar Sharif speaks of India's total intransigence in the face of global condemnation of its human rights record in the held valley. Sardar Sikander Hayat Khan said the Kashmiri people have already rejected the Indian proposal for holding elections.

The president of Azad Jammu and Kashmir appealed to the American and British leadership to play their role in trying to persuade the Indian leadership to work for a political solution of the Kashmir problem instead of going on a war path.

?

BULK RATE
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 352
MERRIFIELD, VA.

This is a U.S. Government publication produced by the Foreign Broadcast Information Service (FBIS). Its contents in no way represent the policies, views, or attitudes of the U.S. Government.

FBIS collects, translates, disseminates, and analyzes foreign open-source information on behalf of the U.S. Government. Its publications may contain copyrighted material. ***Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.***

— Bracketed indicators before the first sentence of each item describe the way in which the material was processed by FBIS.

— Headlines and all bracketed explanatory notes are supplied by FBIS.

— Personal and place names are rendered in accordance with the decisions of the U.S. Board on Geographic Names as adapted by FBIS. Unverified names in radio and television material appear in parentheses and are spelled phonetically; words and phrases in parentheses preceded by a question mark are unclear in the original and deduced from context.

SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION

U.S. Government Customers

For a list of FBIS products, to subscribe to an FBIS publication, or to indicate a change of address contact:

FBIS
P.O. Box 2604
Washington, DC 20013-2604
Telephone: (202) 338-6735
FAX: (703) 733-6042

Non-Government Customers

Subscriptions are available from the National Technical Information Service:

NTIS
5285 Port Royal Road
Springfield, VA 22161
Telephone: (703) 487-4630
FAX: (703) 321-8547

New subscribers should expect a 30-day delay in receipt of the first issue.